

Workers believe warning signs ignored

66 workers perish in Turkish mine disaster

MERZIFON, Turkey (R) — Turkish coal miners said they believed warning signs were ignored before an explosion and fire ripped through an underground chamber, killing 66 of their colleagues.

"On the day of the explosion there was excessive heat in the mine. We also had a tip-off that there was excessive gas," Osman Soytil, whose shift ended only hours before Wednesday's blast, said late Thursday.

Officials at northern Turkey's Yenicecik Legniti Mine said fire was still raging in a chamber 350 metres below the surface where 58 miners were entombed.

"The compartment is closed and no air is going in or out. The area of the explosion is 60 metres by 150 metres," Celaleddin Cakir, general manager of the mine, told Reuters.

Cakir said it could take up to six months to reopen the mine near the Black Sea mountain town of Merzifon following the

blast which he believed was caused by a methane build up.

"The prosecutor will determine the guilty. He is interrogating engineers and other senior technical people," he said.

Officials said 10 miners had been dragged to the surface throughout the mine's main shaft but that all but two were dead.

It was the worst pit disaster in Turkey since 1983 when an explosion killed at least 100 miners in the main coal mining area of Zonguldak, west of Merzifon.

Trade union leaders and workers have been sharply critical of the latest accident, with Sevkettin Yilmaz, head of the main Turk-Is workers confederation, describing it as "murder".

It was the third reported death blast at the mine which opened in 1965. Sixty-seven miners were killed in a similar explosion in 1965 and 14 died in the pit in 1959.

Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and Labour Minister Imren

Aykan visited Yenicecik Thursday and President Turgut Ozal pledged help for the families of the bereaved.

Turk-Is urged miners Friday to boycott work at all mines to protest the coal pit disaster.

"We propose to the two (major) mining unions that they stop production to protest the lack of job safety measures in the sector which makes mass murders of accidents," said the statement by the Turk-Is confederation with over 1.5 million members.

The Turk-Is statement called on the government to bring out the bodies at whatever cost even if it meant ending all mining.

The Turk-Is statement said it would support the unions if they accepted the proposal.

The Turkish Maden-Is Union which represents the Yenicecik miners and Genel Maden-Is Union together group some 110,000 of Turkey's 140,000 mine workers.

Abie Nathan freed from jail

KFAR SABA, Israel (R) — Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan was freed from prison Friday saying he was more determined than ever to talk to Arab leaders and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Nathan, a popular radio broadcaster, served four months for breaking a 1986 law banning contacts with what Israel brands "terrorist" groups, including the PLO. He met PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis in 1988.

"I am more determined than before. No fences will close me down," he told reporters outside Eyal Prison north of Tel Aviv.

"I am ready to meet not only Arafat, but any Arab leader who wants to talk peace. Whenever an Arab leader talks peace and stretches out his hand, I will grab it," Nathan said. "I don't mind spending the rest of life in prison."

Israeli children handed him flowers and olive branches as he spoke to journalists and supporters, including at least one parliamentarian, in a downpour outside the prison.

Nathan, the fifth Israeli convicted of breaking the anti-terrorist law, was originally jailed for six months but prison authorities reduced the sentence for good behaviour.

During his term at the minimum security prison, Nathan was allowed visitors and a number of short leaves.

Born in Iran and raised in India before immigrating to Israel, Nathan flew two celebrated peace missions to Egypt in a private plane in 1966 and 1967.

He said he would continue his campaign to have the anti-terrorist law repealed because he considered it an obstacle to peace.

"How can it be that throughout the world people talk and we don't? All enemies around the world talk, while we are the only ones who still have not overcome this, and there won't be any path to a solution," he told Israel Army Radio.

Nathan accused Israel of hypocrisy over the law, saying the government was holding indirect peace talks with the PLO.

Khamenei upholds Rushdie's death sentence

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader said Friday that the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's order calling for the death of author Salman Rushdie must be carried out, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as saying in a sermon Friday that Khomeini's fatwa, or religious decree, "about the writer of the blasphemous book, the Satanic Verses is still valid and must be implemented."

In a related development, nine Iranians deported from Britain arrived in Tehran Friday.

The Indian-born British author, in hiding since Khomeini issued the decree Feb. 14 last year, said this week he considered appearing in public to deliver a lecture on censorship, but had been dissuaded by his police guards.

In interviews with the British Independent newspaper and Newweek magazine, Rushdie

said he regretted the pain the book had called but said he stood by it. He said he was pressing for a paperback edition.

Muslim fundamentalists, who consider the book blasphemous for its irreverent treatment of the Prophet Muhammad reacted violently to the book after its publication in 1988.

But the controversy snowballed after Khomeini issued the death decree and several Iranian leaders put a \$5.2 million bounty on Rushdie's head.

Britain, along with about 12 Western allies, recalled their ambassadors from Tehran to protest the fatwa. All the EC countries resumed ties with Iran, but Tehran severed relations with London, accusing it of leading a pressure campaign against Khomeini to revoke the death decree.

In Tehran Friday, an Iranian television journalist reported along with an Iran Air official and seven students, said in a radio

interview that it was no coincidence that the expulsions came near the anniversary of Khomeini's death decree.

The London Bureau chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, identified by the radio only as Keivanara, told Tehran Radio "the expulsion of the students was a political action taken on the anniversary of the death order against Salman Rushdie."

Britain announced on Feb. 1 that the mine had to be out within a week for reasons of national security. It did not elaborate, but similar expulsions in the past have been linked to the Rushdie death decree.

Keivanara said that he was informed by the British Home Office last week that he had to leave due to his contacts with organisations that support Iran.

He called the accusation groundless, saying "I was the holder of a valid press card, and as such was entitled to cover all

issues of interest to my government."

In a 7,000-word essay published in the independent newspaper Sunday, Rushdie said his novel was not meant to pain Muslims, but rather to create a literary language for "fornically colonised," still-disadvantaged peoples, "those like himself who straddled different cultures — 'a love-song to our mongrel selves'."

Muslim leaders in Britain have rejected Rushdie's olive-branch, and condemned his determination to push ahead for publication of a paperback edition.

In his essay defending free speech and calling on moderate Muslims to read the book, Rushdie wrote that "I recognise that many Muslims have been felt shocked and pained too. Perhaps a way forward might be found through the mutual recognition of that mutual pain. Let us attempt to believe in each other's good faith."

Prague renews ties with Israel

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovakia's new reformist government formally renewed full diplomatic relations with Israel Friday, opening a new era of friendship after a 23-year rift.

Foreign Ministers Moshe Arens of Israel and Jiri Dienstbier of Czechoslovakia signed the accord at a ceremony in Prague's Carmin Palace witnessed by journalists.

Czechoslovakia follows Hungary in reversing a Soviet-led decision to break with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war. Hungary restored ties last September.

The rapprochement, after an unprecedented exchange of delegations between Prague and Tel Aviv, took place barely two months after Czechoslovakia's hardline Communists surrendered their grip on power.

New President Vaclav Havel wants Prague's new friendliness to Israel to forge a role for Czechoslovakia in the Middle East peace process.

He has stressed the new era of warmth would not harm Czechoslovakia's traditionally friendly re-

lations with Arab states or its support for Palestinian rights to self-determination.

The two foreign ministers also signed an agreement on cultural, educational and scientific cooperation.

A spokesman at the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry also predicted flourishing economic links between the two countries. In the past few years of Communist rule, trade languished at a few million dollars a year.

K. Germany admits World War II responsibility

In a separate development, East Germany Thursday accepted a share of responsibility for the Holocaust and said it would provide "material support" to Jewish victims, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) said in New York.

In a letter to the WJC in New York, Prime Minister Hans Modrow said East Germany recognises its duty "with regard to the survivors of the Jewish people who suffered under Nazi oppres-

sion."

It also said East Germany "confirms its readiness in a spirit of human solidarity to provide material support to former (victims) of the Nazi regime of Jewish origin."

In 1951, West Germany accepted its responsibility for the Holocaust, in which nearly six million Jews were killed from 1933 to 1945. It has since paid billions of dollars in reparations to Israel, Jewish organisations and individual Jewish claimants.

East Germany, however, rejected a similar response, saying it was formed in 1949 and therefore did not bear any responsibility for the Holocaust.

In East Berlin, the East German news agency (ADN) released the full text of Modrow's statement and said a copy had been sent to the Israeli government as well as the WJC.

Restating East Berlin's position on reparations, Modrow noted in the statement that East Germany had fulfilled all its obligations under the post-World War II accords.

He said the German government was holding indirect peace talks with the PLO.



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Europe heeds U.S. warning, braces for attack

LONDON (R) — European governments are bracing for a possible terrorist attack this weekend after a warning from the United States.

The United States said Thursday it feared terrorists might attack U.S. targets in Western Europe to coincide with Sunday's 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

"We are taking this warning seriously," Dutch Interior Ministry spokesman Ger Bodewitz said Friday.

Security will be especially tight around U.S. airline counters at European airports, with detailed searches of all passenger baggage likely in many centres.

In December 1988 a bomb blew apart a Pan-American Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259 people on board and 11 on the ground shortly after the plane had taken off from Heathrow during a flight from Frankfurt to New York.

"We know of the reports and have ordered the appropriate measures to be taken," said a government spokesman in Bonn, without elaborating.

In London, a Transport Department spokesman said: "The U.S. announcement does not advise of any threat against civil aviation but we have taken the notice into account."

A senior Greek police officer said Athens took all such warn-

ings seriously, adding that security was always well-controlled at Greek airports.

However, in Switzerland, Geneva airport officials said they had not yet heard of the State Department announcement.

There was no immediate word from European airports of widespread ticket cancellations following the advisory.

Security was also tight Friday around U.S. diplomatic missions in Europe.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry confirmed the U.S. embassy in Istanbul had asked for extra protection.

The State Department warning was relayed to reporters by spokesman Richard Boucher.

"We are deeply concerned," he said.

"We believe it is possible that this attack may be timed to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

He said the department believed the attack took place on or near Sunday.

At the United Nations in New York, the Iranian mission said the U.S. warning was baseless.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects the baseless allegation made by the U.S. State Department, and considers them vain attempts to discredit the Islamic Revolution," it said in a

statement.

It said U.S. authorities knew the allegations "have no foundation whatsoever in reality."

Boucher said the State Department issued a threat advisory in December due to what he called the high level of activity of pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) operatives in Western Europe.

"We think that people should exercise caution, observe good security procedures, follow the recommendations of authorities. But we're not issuing a travel advisory for Western Europe," he said.

A senior analyst said the department's warning might be part of a new sense of caution after the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie.

The United States was later criticised for not notifying the public after the U.S. embassy in Finland reportedly received a veiled warning that a bomb would be placed on a Pan Am flight.

"They are now putting everyone on possible notice of a possible attack based on the symbolic date and fact that these organisations are active," said Robert Kupperman of the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Boucher said he did not have specific information on the operation or its target or whether it was against an airline.

"We're passing on information that we think should be brought to the attention of the public. We're passing on this information, obviously, to our own personnel as well," he said.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which supervises airport security and airline safety, would not elaborate in Boucher's remarks and an FAA source said his agency knew of no specific threats.

Boucher declined to say whether the United States had been in contact with Iranian authorities about the threat, saying: "I'm not in a position to talk about or speculate on specific governments being behind this."

Gene Mastrangelo, a private security consultant with the firm Business Risks International, said the first 10 days of February are called the "10 days of dawn" by Iranian loyalists to Khomeini, who died last June. He said the period was a moveable "window," a time when Iranian-backed extremists have taken terrorist action to commemorate the Feb. 11 anniversary.

Matt Freund, another specialist with the firm, said police have uncovered caches of explosives believed linked to the Hizbollah network in Spain and France and that Hizbollah could be working with European-based terrorist operations.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Algiers shaken by 2nd earth tremor

ALGIERS (R) — The city of Algiers and surrounding areas were shaken by an earth tremor Friday but no damage was reported, the Algerian News Agency (APS) said. The tremor registered 4.6 on the open-ended Richter Scale — powerful enough to cause damage in populated areas. It was felt in Algiers, Blida and Tipaza at 0931 GMT, the agency said. It was the second tremor since Feb. 5 when the Algiers area was shaken by a quake registering 4.1 on the Richter Scale. It coincided with a conference held in Tipaza, 60 kilometres west of Algiers, devoted to seismic risks. An earthquake last October in the same area killed 30 people and caused extensive damage.

Alexander's library to rise from ashes

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — Debi-burdened Egypt, anxious to recapture some of its past glory, this weekend appeals to the outside world for help in resurrecting the greatest library of the ancient world, destroyed by fire more than 2,000 years ago. How to raise \$160 million to pay for the Alexandria Library is a question Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will put to an international conference in this Nile-side town. Personalities and leaders including French President Francois Mitterrand, Princess Caroline of Monaco and Sheikh Zaki bin Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates are expected to join Mubarak. They are to discuss fund-raising for a new library near the original site in Alexandria built by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C. The Alexandria Library was the biggest in the ancient world, drawing in scholars from around the Mediterranean to consult its manuscripts and papyrus scrolls. The pre-Christian, pre-Islamic library accumulated on one site the world's biggest collection of knowledge on astrology, mathematics, medicine and philosophy. A fire destroyed much of the library in 48 B.C. as Julius Caesar's legions sacked Alexandria.

Ethiopia, rebels agree on talks

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia said Friday it had agreed to hold preliminary peace talks in Sanaa with a minor rebel group fighting for independence in the northern province of Eritrea. Deputy Prime Minister Ashagne Yigletem was quoted by the Ethiopian news agency (ENA) as saying he had held talks with government officials in North Yemen this week on the planned talks with the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF). He said Ethiopia was prepared to start the talks in Sanaa by the middle of this month but an exact date would not be set until North Yemen had spoken to both sides. The ELF launched the struggle for independence in Eritrea, a former Italian colony on the Red Sea coast, in 1961. In 1970 it split into the ELF and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), now the major rebels force in Eritrea. The government has already begun talks with the EPLF.

Khamenei pardons 178 prisoners

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei granted amnesty to 178 prisoners to mark the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the official news agency reported Friday. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said the prisoners came from 22 cities throughout Iran. "They were serving prison terms upon verdicts of public or Islamic revolutionary courts," said IRNA without specifying the offenses. The state-run radio, also monitored in Cyprus, said the pardons were proposed by Iran's chief justice, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.

Turkish consul in Komotini returns home

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's consul in Komotini, who has been declared persona non grata by Greece, returned home with his family, three days before a deadline set for his departure. Consul Kemal Gur, after crossing the border by car, told reporters at the Ipsala border gate that the situation in Komotini was "very grave," the semi-official Anatolia News agency reported. The Muslim minority in the region "have their trust shaken in the Greek state and its justice," Anatolia quoted Gur as saying. Gur was ordered to leave for referring to the 200,000-strong Muslim minority as "ethnic brothers" in a petition to authorities in the region recently plagued by ethnic strife. In retaliation Turkey has declared Greece's Istanbul consul general, Elias Kis, persona non grata. He must leave the country Sunday.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary
18:05	Message from Iraq
18:25	A play by Shakespeare
18:30	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Consumer's Guide
22:25	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Variety programme
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Natural Phenomena
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Towards a Greener Jordan
21:40	Classical Music
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Under Fire"
PRAYER TIMES	
05:41	Fajr
06:19	(Sunrise) Dhuha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661737	
Yarmouk Church Tel. 623566	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683268	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for scattered showers. Winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Asqala, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.	
Amman	Min./max. temp. 3/10
Asqala	10/19
Dumana	4/11
Jordan Valley	9/16
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Asqala 18. Humidity readings: Amman 52 per cent, Asqala 38 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Saleh Tamout	896093
Dr. Amjad Nawras	781806
Dr. Issa Haddad	897007
Dr. Tawfiq Qab'ain	623029
First pharmacy	661912
Reflex pharmacy	718336
Al Aqsa pharmacy	637025
Nazareth pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue	199
Fire Brigade	192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank	625228
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	860700
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	603800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Police Complaints	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information	121
Orchestra Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111

HOSPITALS	
ADMAN:	
Basma Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642316
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Melina, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital	667221/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666121/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	775112/6
Amry, Marka	916111/5
Queen Alia Hospital	612400/0
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	093832/3
Zarqa National Hospital	093910/7
Im Shua Hospital	093867/2
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	027255/5
Greek Catholic Hospital	027272/5

Ibn Al Nefoes Hospital..... (02)247100
 AQABA:
 Princess Haya Hospital..... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport (RJ) (03)33007-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:45	Baghdad (RJ)
08:00	Damascus (RJ)
08:20	New Delhi (RJ)
08:30	Karachi, Delhi (RJ)
10:30	Dubai, Kuwait (RJ)
10:50	Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
17:45	Cairo (RJ)
17:50	New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:55	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00	Amman (RJ)
08:15	Perth (RJ)

Hot contest in the offing as engineers gear up for Feb. 23 association elections

By Marwan Shabbat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

last election, held in 1988.

Political character

AMMAN — A hotly contested race is in the making for the leadership of the Jordan Engineers' Association, with at least nine candidates for the presidency, and another nine candidates for the vice-presidency.

Although only two "blobs" — the traditional "Greens," which espouse pan-Arab and leftist politics, economic and social platforms, and the "Whites," which is identified with Islamist tendencies — have taken definite shape ahead of the Feb. 23 elections, association sources said Friday that a third grouping was in the offing and expected to be announced in the next 48 hours.

The association, one of the leading organisations seen as representing the "voice of educated Jordanians," adopts a system of direct elections to a two-year 10-member representing civil engineering, and one each for architecture, electronics, chemical, mechanical and geology. The 10th year is reserved for "technical engineers" — those who have a bachelor of science degree in engineering.

An association source said he expected at least 6,000 members to take part in the elections, reflecting an increase of 1,000 over the figures for the

The association, like most other professional unions and organisations, has served as a prominent forum for airing political views and thoughts in the absence of political parties in the Kingdom.

Although many members advocate a renaissance of the association's role in light of the expected birth of political parties under the proposed National Charter, none of the spokesmen for the blocs said the "political character" should be brought to an end.

Lower House of Parliament member Leith Shbeilat, president of the association since 1988, is one of those who believes that the role of the association should be reviewed. "When there were no political parties to speak on behalf of the people, the association assumed an important political role because it represented such a large number of educated Jordanians and also because there was no one else to voice the people's needs," Shbeilat told the Jordan Times. "Now that the association should reassess its political role and concentrate on professional issues and then on political issues," Shbeilat said in a telephone interview Friday.

According to Shbeilat, who said he was not seeking reelection, the association "has to raise its standards. Nothing should at this point come above the profession because that is after all our raison d'être. The way things stand now, the issues will no longer be one of the people versus the government; it will be the people versus the people."

Shbeilat, who was supported by both "Greens" and "Whites" in the 1988 elections and secured 3,500 votes out of the 5,000 votes cast, said he was supporting "White" candidate Ahmad Kelani for president in the Feb. 23 elections.

Three of the nine candidates seeking the presidency are also expected to assume leadership of the blocs in the association. Izzat Al-Tel is expected to head the Green bloc and Ahmad Kelani will head the White bloc. Saleh Al-Tel is tipped to head the yet unnamed third bloc, described by association members as a "variation of the Greens."

The main difference between the "Greens and the new entity, according to a source close to the group, will be that it will adopt a "new approach towards implementing the platforms." The new bloc will deal with the process of democratisation in the kingdom in a more dynamic and feasible manner," the source said.

'New era, new approach'

According to the bloc's presidential candidate, Izzat Al-Tel, "we are living in a new era and that era demands a new approach."

"Our role will not be any different in meaning from the traditional Greens; it will only change in means and bases of approach," Izzat told the Jordan Times Friday. "Instead of asking for political freedoms, we will ask for steps to be taken to deal with the issue of unemployment of engineers. The issue is no less political, but the approach must change. Dealing with professional issues and being politically involved are two sides of the same coin as far as we are concerned," he added.

Kelani, who enjoys Shbeilat's backing, has a list of "priorities" which he believes should be addressed in that order by the association. Topping the list are suggestions to tackle unemployment and to decentralise the decision-making powers of the association.

'Higher awareness'

Members of the Green bloc concede that professional issues should indeed be the top priority for the association but argue that it should not cease to be a forum for political activity.

"The amount of political awareness that exists in the engineers' and lawyers' associa-

tions probably exceeds that of many people in parliament because these people deal with the day-to-day problems in this country," said a Greens activist. "If their political roles were to be brought to an end, it would be tantamount to a catastrophe since these associations embrace all thoughts and colours in the political spectrum," he said.

Only 8,000 of the 22,000 members of the association are eligible to vote. Many members are outside Jordan, mostly in the Arab Gulf countries, and many others are not up-to-date with payment of their dues to the organisation and thus disqualified from taking part in the elections.

Independent observers estimate that 42 per cent of the members support the Greens and 40 per cent favour the Whites, and see the rest as uncommitted.

Following are the nine seeking the presidency of the association: Saleh Izzat, Izzat Al-Tel, Ahmad Kelani, Izzat Al-Tel, Ahmad Kelani, Izzat Al-Tel, Ahmad Kelani, Izzat Al-Tel, Ahmad Kelani.



The unemployment problem in Jordan is seen by many officials and experts as "behavioural" — meaning that Jordanians turn at accepting "low-level" jobs such as in farming, butcheries, and domestic services (File photo).

Move does not aim at legally employed foreigners, Labour minister explains

Issuance of work permits to be resumed after study

By a Jordan Times

Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Ministry of Labour is currently conducting a study on the labour market in Jordan to determine the Kingdom's requirements of foreign workers, especially in the sectors of agriculture, nursing and domestic services where Jordanian substitutes could not be found, Minister of Labour Qassem Obeidat said Friday.

Once the study is over, the ministry will resume the issuance of work permits to non-Jordanians whose services are needed in specific areas, the minister was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The minister was interviewed by Petra on the implications and implementation of a decision by the ministry to freeze the issuance of work permits as of Feb. 8 until further notice. The decision was announced Wednesday by the ministry, which said the move was part of the government's policy of alleviating the Kingdom's unemployment problem through closer monitoring and controlling of the local labour market and finding Jordanian replacements for foreign workers in various sectors.

Obeidat told Petra Friday that one of the main aims of the move was to eliminate the illegal employment of foreign workers by local businesses. He stressed that it would not have any impact on foreigners who have already been issued work permits by the ministry and did not mean that foreign workers would be ordered to leave the country. "It is directed at violators of the law, particularly those employers who employ

non-Jordanians without obtaining work permits," the minister was quoted as saying by Petra.

The ministry will continue to cooperate with businesses with a view to finding employment for Jordanians, according to Mansour Al-Utm, director of the Employment Office of the Ministry of Labour.

Utum was quoted as saying by Petra that Jordan had enough job opportunities for Jordanians, particularly in non-white collar sectors.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said recently that there were over 80,000 unemployed Jordanians in the country at a time when 175,000 non-Jordanians were employed in the Kingdom's various sectors. In a move designed to discourage the employment of foreign workers, the ministry has introduced annual work permit charges, ranging from JD 50 in the agricultural and nursing sectors to JD 100 and JD 300 in others.

Utum, in statements carried by Petra, called on all Jordanian employers to give priority to Jordanians in employment and give training to prepare them to take over jobs from foreigners.

Maan businessmen's call

However, the government move to freeze the issuance of work permits was criticised by businesses in Maan in the south. A meeting organised by local businessmen in Maan Thursday to discuss the ministry decision decided to send cables to Badran and Obeidat urging the government to rescind the move, "which will have adverse impacts" on Maan businesses.

Speaking on behalf of the meeting, Haiman Al-Nasser, owner of a Maan confectionery told

Petra that businessmen in the area wanted to help the government in its endeavours to alleviate the unemployment problem, but had been finding little success in their search for Jordanian workers to replace foreigners employed in various sectors.

Mohammad Ali Salameh, owner of a brick-making plant, was quoted as saying by Petra that he had repeatedly advertised in local papers asking for local workers but none had responded, thus forcing him to employ non-Jordanians.

Ahmad Khalaf Salah, who operates a gas cylinder business, said he was disappointed to find that Jordanians did not stay more than a few days of work with him and thus had no alternative other than to employ non-Jordanians.

Mohammad Mousa Abu Saleh, a butcher, also gave a similar story. He said he found Jordanians were not interested in working at a butchery and had to look for non-Jordanians to work for him.

Aqaba situation

The Aqaba labour department provided 151 job opportunities in January for Jordanians out of a total of 160 applications, director of the department told Petra.

The department withheld 79 work permits foreign nationals from 11 countries at the expiry of these permits in accordance with regulations which provide for retraining from renewing work permits if Jordanian substitutes could be found.

The department, according to the director, undertook a total of 137 inspection tours to various institutions in Aqaba in January to make sure that regulations related to foreign labourers were followed thoroughly.

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AMMAN / JORDAN

Queen accepts membership in world panel on Alexandria

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has accepted the invitation of Mrs. Hosni Mubarak, the wife of the Egyptian president, and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director General Federico Mayor to serve on the International Commission for the Revival of the Ancient Library of Alexandria, whose membership includes

heads of state, several world dignitaries, notable academicians, and a Nobel Prize winner.

The inaugural meeting of the commission will be held in Aswan, Egypt, on Feb. 11-12, under the patronage of President Hosni Mubarak and will be attended by the members of the commission and other distinguished guests.

Writer remembered

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A commemorative service was held in honour of prominent Jordanian writer and poet Hossni Fariz, who died Jan. 4 at the age of 83, leaving behind him a great literary legacy.

The ceremony Thursday was attended by leading scholars, government officials, parliamentarians and family members.

Born to a poor family in Salt in 1907, Fariz was one of the first people who attended Salt secondary school after which he was given a scholarship by the Ministry of Education in 1927 to pursue further studies at the American University of Beirut.

Upon his return to Jordan after graduation from the AUB, he became a teacher of Arabic literature, history and geography. He was then transferred to a school in Karak, because of his outspoken views, and eventually returned to his old school in Salt to take the headmaster's position. Later, Fariz became the state inspector of exports, "a job I knew absolutely nothing about,"

he said years later, and was pensioned in 1952. From 1962 to 1963, he was under-secretary of the Ministry of Education, and in 1968 he became the president of the Union of Jordanian Writers, and remained in that post till his death earlier this year.

Fariz had been credited with many literary works. In 1938, he wrote his first collection of poems "Forms of Love", and in 1954 he wrote another collection entitled "My Country". In 1986, he added a third collection of epic plays and poems.

According to leading figures in Jordan's literary movement, Fariz's death was a huge loss to Jordan and to the literary heritage of this country, which he helped build. He worked for sixty years studying, teaching, organising, translating, writing short stories and novels, publishing articles, lecturing and participating in conferences and seminars, said Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad, a former minister of higher education. "Fariz had become a part of a part of Jordan's traditional literary heritage," Assad said.

Zaben urges stricter adherence to standards

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Mohammad Al-Zaben has stressed the need to abide by regulations governing wastewater treatment plants, drinking water, springs, and dams.

During a meeting with the directors of health departments in various governorates and districts

Thursday, Zaben called for closer control of food factories particularly dairy plants and bakeries.

He also stressed the need to hold monthly meetings to promote the standard of health specialists and introduce mothers to the importance of breastfeeding and educate them on breast cancer.

Europe film festival begins today

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Movie-goers and video film addicts who enjoy watching "non-American" movies once in a while have difficulty in finding European films in Jordan. But now is the time for those addicts to indulge themselves in "foreign" movies for eight consecutive days.

Starting next Saturday, eight member states of the European Community (EC), and the EC delegation in Jordan, are bringing to the Jordanian audience eight different European films to be screened at the Philadelphia Cinema in Jabal Amman.

According to the head of the EC Commission delegation, Christian Falkowski, providing a cross-section of different films from Europe gives Jordanian audience an idea of the "best cinematic productions by European directors in the last three years, that are not normally available in Jordan."

Falkowski said that the European film festival, the third of its kind held in Amman patronised by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, reflects "the rich variety of individual national characteristics which, taken as a whole, represents a unique cultural blend" of European culture.

According to the head of the commission, the first and second film festivals, held in Amman in 1987 and 1989, gained quite a success. He said that because of

audience demand, some of the films were repeated at extra screenings.

"Jordan is the only country in the Middle East where these annual film festivals are held. But as a result of the success of the films in Amman, a similar European film festival will now take place in Damascus next month," Falkowski said at a press conference earlier this week.

He said that the screening of European movies was only one manifestation in introducing European culture, especially that Jordanians "love to watch movies."

There is comedy, drama and adventure in the cross-section of films this year, all of which are productions of the late 1980s.

The Italian movie reflects a comic day in the life of a 16-year-old hotel management student who works as a waiter at a grand gala dinner, but prefers to remain a child.

The Dutch film is somewhat of a wild goose chase comedy depicting a woman wanted by two men who search for her when she and her small daughter play a disappearing act.

From the synopses distributed to the press, the British drama, on the Black Hill, sounds like one of those best seller mini-series seen on TV — a saga of generations in a Welsh farm from 1895 to 1980.

The Belgian drama is about love and loyalty; the Greek about

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Lower House meets today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold its 14th session Saturday to discuss reports of its various committees. During the session, Prime Minister Mudar Badran will present answers to proposals tabled by deputies.

Court to study diplomats' transfer

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Court of Justice will Saturday study the case presented by four diplomats who were recently transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Labour and the Court of Civil Service.

Hamdan to attend Thailand conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in an international conference on "Education for All" scheduled to convene in Thailand March 5. The four-day conference will discuss means to bolster international cooperation in education. Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan will lead the Jordanian delegation to the conference.

Halbuna not for commercial use

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply has warned commercial firms against using "Halbuna" dried milk to produce confectionaries, ice cream or biscuits. A ministry statement said the product was imported to Jordan solely for use by the domestic sector and should not be used for commercial purposes. The ministry said its warehouses had enough stock of the product.

Iraqis release Jordanian drivers

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Jordanian drivers detained in Iraq for violating traffic rules on fast highways have been released, according to a notification received here by the Ministry of Interior from Baghdad. The two were freed after paying fines. Fines for this nature of violations could reach up to JD 5,000.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Cheram, Merguich, Mouschikine, Pleschen and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Alla Ammoura, Nabila Hilmi and Nawal Abdallah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Tawfiq Al Sayed at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at Ma'ta University.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Dr. Deoud Al Inzawi on "the conservation of threatened wildflowers in Jordan" at the AUB Alumni Club — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ An Italian film entitled "Long Live the Lady," shown as part of the European film festival, at Philadelphia Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ A concert by the French duo Gerard and Mappia accompanied by Elm Masek at Yarmouk University at 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

View From Amman

Democracy and National Charter — II

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

THE practice of democracy is like its very concept, indivisible: either you have it or you don't. It is from this premise that the future Jordan National Charter should emanate. It should be flexible enough to allow for new developments over time. And, while it should give direction, it must never be allowed to become a straitjacket for the body or the mind, but merely light the way.

I have always been afraid of those who think they have a monopoly over the truth and who speak in absolute terms. For, it is they who, acting under the guise of democracy, kill its very essence, and in the name of creating a philosophy for one or another aspect of life: the economy, education, social transformation... they create yet another pattern, another mould the escape or deviation from which is most difficult.

What we need is a developing set of concepts to help in reaching our goals whether political, economic, or social. A living ideology that is in constant interaction with life, changing as life changes, and not a yoke over our necks making our life more difficult. A forward looking manifesto anticipating the future, its challenges, changes and possibilities and not a totalitarian creed that ties us to a past. Our charter should indeed rest upon and foster our sense of historical values, tradition and mission, again developing out of these an agenda for the future, not fixating itself in the past.

The charter should revolve around the major issues dealing with our present and future life. An attempt should be made at

deciding certain issues: ideologically, politically, economically and socially. What sort of society do we visualise for ourselves and our children? What are the broad strategic outlines and hopes? What methods are we to pursue to reach these goals?

Above all else we must liberate our mind so that it can roam, speculate, question, seek answers and attempt solutions. All aspects of life should be subject to our scrutiny and questioning. In looking over our past few centuries as contrasted with those of the Western experience, we must realise that Western society broke the syndrome of underdevelopment, ignorance and disease when the mind of the average man was released. We need not repeat the same experience exactly but we do need to look very closely so as to find out why and how they succeeded while we are still grappling with the same questions of centuries ago.

The charter should be an elaboration; an expansion of the lofty principles of democracy and the dignity of man already present in our cultural heritage. Until only two or three decades ago, our people in Jordan and Palestine lived in rural towns, villages, or as nomads. Consultation, a form of de facto democracy, was already one of our main cultural traits. The village elder, the *mukhtar*, the selectman, consulted with his people on their affairs. The same was true of the sheikh of the tribe in whose *diwan*, council, the elders of the tribe decided their affairs in consultation with each other. These social institutions, our historical heritage, lost since

the rise of the modern nation state with the conclusion of World War I, should not be ignored. These social legacies can also be supported by the spiritual injunctions of the glorious Koran itself. In one of the verses the Koran exhorted that "their" affairs are in consultation among themselves, and in a later verse there is the order, "consult them" in their affairs.

Now that the international and regional atmosphere seems encouraging, we should take the chance and see to it that a new Jordan can be constructed. Both His Majesty King Hussein, and King Abdullah declared and acted upon their intention to expand the horizons of the participatory system of government. Democracy, while rooted in Greek thought is also part and parcel of the heritage of man. It has been part of the dream of free people throughout the ages. It is a system designed to expand not restrict the horizons of man in his society. It allows for stability and legitimacy while ensuring liberty and participation. Its greatest advantage is that it allows for the release of individual talent, the individual initiative, to explore new horizons without discarding old values. It is the maintenance of that delicately balanced tension that ensures the survival of the thesis and its antithesis at the same time, constantly stirring the mixture and thus allowing for the vitality of life to continue.

Al Mithaq, the charter should give new hope by its intended, or hopefully intended mixture of modernity and traditionalism.

Floatation vs inflation

THE RECENT decision of the Central Bank to float interest rates in a bid to promote investment, curb inflation and bolster the value of the Jordanian currency is indeed commendable, albeit over due. Yet, after many days on the application of that bold monetary policy the interest rates have not floated high enough to reach even the expected inflationary rate which is conservatively estimated at 13 per cent. This suggests that the floatation process is more artificial than real, for experts would readily concede that interest rates should not be lower than the inflation rate, otherwise they would effectively be negative real interest rates.

Since the Kingdom has started a new phase in all its styles of life, be they political or economic or whatever on the basis of frankness and realism in dealing with one another, one is at a loss to explain the lack of such avowed features in maintaining interest rates at such a low level where they can never be expected to promote investment or curb inflation or bolster the value of the dinar as projected. Jordan is not the only country nor the last to suffer from high inflation, unemployment and weakening currency. Yet, in all the countries with similar woes the first adjustment made to rectify the course of the country has been to raise interest rates a few points beyond the rate of inflation. As potential Jordanian investors are currently at the mercy of the banks operating in the country, which apparently determine or even fix interest rates in a manner most profitable to them, the Central Bank of Jordan is dutybound to intervene in a manner similar to interventions of other central banks all over the world. The first thing that Jordan's Central Bank is called upon to do is to fix rediscount rate in line with the projected rate of inflation which would serve as a basis for lending between the bank and other commercial banks in Jordan or among commercial banks. The next move could take the form of calculating a commercial interest rate on the basis of the central bank's interest rate. Such a step would create the kind of climate which could promote investment, curb inflation and support the dinar. Once investment is truly encouraged, there would be enough capital generated in the country to construct and develop the kind of export-oriented industries as well as labour intensive enterprises that the country is in need of. Then and only then can Jordanians aspire to end their economic and fiscal hardships on a realistic and pragmatic basis.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday lamented the situation in the Arab region and said that while the world is moving towards real economic and political development, the Arab countries are still in disarray and dealing with side issues, unable to deal with matters of real concern to the Arab people in the coming century. The paper said that Europe and the world at large are witnessing real change to the better, as the East-West tension eases and as Europe prepares for unity by the year 1992. The door is now open for real change in government and economic structures and the statesmen of the world are reassessing their priorities in view of the developments and with a view to working out new formulas for the 21st century, said the paper. But, it noted, the Arab countries are still lagging behind, and did not prepare anything for the coming century, involved only in side issues without any real and serious planning for the future. It said that the Arab World tries desperately to deal with the influx of Soviet Jews into Palestine, the question of river waters flowing to Iraq, Syria and Egypt, the situation in Lebanon and other matters without preparation, planning or joint efforts. The paper urged the Arab leaders to meet at a summit where they can seriously discuss matters of concern to their people and plan for real unity without which there is no future for the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour Arabic daily discussed the situation in Palestine as the uprising there enters the third month of its third year. The paper said that one cannot but express real admiration and total support for the oppressed people trying to resist an aggressive power and all forms of barbaric and criminal actions. The paper expressed regret that violence and oppression being imposed on the Palestinians have not yet aroused the conscience of the free and civilised world. It said that the latest picture of barbaric action is now being exercised against the Palestinian city of Rafah because the driver of a bus that was attacked in Egypt recently resulting in the death of a group of Israelis came from that town. As the atrocities continue, the American president insists on showing his support for the Israeli crimes by demanding that Moscow operate direct flights between Moscow and Palestine to fly Jews who will be settled on Arab land with American money, the paper noted. Instead of exercising its pressure on Israeli leaders to stop brutal practices, the United States is stubbornly following the course of aggression against the Arabs, totally disregarding international principles and human rights.

Sawt Al Sham Arabic daily commented on the situation in Lebanon where the Christians are involved in a fratricidal war. The paper said that as the leaders of the Shi'ite groups are continually fighting each other not on religious ground, the turn now is for the Christians to follow suit and kill one another in a manner that could only satisfy the selfish interests of their leaders. The past years have proved that all conflicts inside Lebanon have nothing to do with religion or faith, and proved also that no foreign country or the Pope can bring an end to the greed of the leaders of factional groups, the paper said. It suggested that the legitimate central power of the president should move to end all Shi'ite or Christian fighting and put an end to the Lebanese people's ordeal.

Fayoum fundamentalist remains as enigmatic as his supporters

By Myra MacDonald
Reuters

FAYOUM, Egypt — At dusk a blind man in long white robes is led by his three sons from his home to the mosque across the road.

The Egyptian authorities regard Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman — the Muslim theologian accused but acquitted of inciting the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981 — as one of the country's most dangerous men.

He is living under house arrest, cooped up on two floors of a small government-subsidised home in Fayoum, a pretty oasis city southeast of Cairo, with two wives and eight children.

The 52-year-old spiritual leader of the outlawed Al Jamaa Al Islamiya is on trial for alleged involvement in street clashes last April, but a court order has freed

him pending the verdict.

Officially Sheikh Omar can go where he wants, but more than a dozen security guards around his home turn away visitors.

He is allowed out once a day to cross a dusty unpaved street to attend evening prayers at the tiny Sayed Kamel mosque. The guards fend off anyone trying to talk to him on his way there.

The guards point to a sign above the house's door saying it is a nursery school.

"And I am the headmaster of the school," said one man, his face nearly covered by a brown muffler, dark glasses and a black cap, who ordered journalists to leave — so as not to disturb the children.

Sheikh Omar's only contact with the outside world is the telephone.

He says he is not even allowed to attend the noon prayers on a

Friday, the most important weekly ceremony for a Muslim.

"You will write that I said that, won't you," he said on the telephone.

Sheikh Omar wanted to give a news conference. But journalists outside his house were told he was out of town and would not talk to women.

He said on the telephone that he was in Fayoum and did want to talk.

Sheikh Omar is as much of an enigma as the fundamentalists who support him, surrounded by so many myths and conflicting information which keeps the truth a mystery.

Dangerous criminal or persecuted blind man, Sheikh Omar shows up the rival views of Egyptians about fundamentalists.

Some think the Islamic militants are plotting the violent overthrow of the state to set up an Iranian-style regime.

Others believe they are the victims of a random repression made possible by Egypt's wide-ranging emergency laws allowing thousands to be detained without charge.

Fayoum itself yields few answers to those conflicting views.

In run-down backstreets near Sheikh Omar's house, there are many bearded men and the women are covered from head-to-toe, often in black.

But elsewhere in the predominantly peasant town, women in gaily-coloured clothes with baskets on their heads carry on as the Egyptian fellahs (peasants) have been doing for centuries, their lives little touched by political changes or upheavals.

Old men sit outside drinking tea under the winter sun and talking. A few tourists come to buy baskets and look at Fayoum's

famous water wheels.

To the government, Fayoum is a hotbed of fundamentalism.

But only the presence of dozens of soldiers, standing on alert after Friday prayers, gives any hint of tension.

Even today, the fundamentalist movement remains as obscure as it did 10 years ago before the murder of Sadat.

Fragmented into groups, it ranges from the Jamaa, initially a university-based grouping courted by Sadat to offset Communists, to the Jihad — whose members killed Sadat — to the Muslim Brotherhood. Only the Brotherhood has gained official tolerance and is allowed to sit in parliament.

All offer Islam as the solution to Egypt's problems and are believed to have support in all levels of society.

Their influence is evident in the

growing number of women wearing the veil and in increasing numbers of people who stop work to pray five times a day.

Many believe that is simply because more Egyptians are turning to religion to find comfort from economic hardship.

Since Sadat's assassination fundamentalists have kept a relatively low profile but whether this is because they are weaker or better controlled is impossible to assess.

New Interior Minister Mohamed Morsi, who replaced hard-line Zaki Badr last month, is reported to be a moderate, able to talk to Muslims. Newspapers say hundreds have been released from jail since Morsi took office.

But Sheikh Omar says dozens have been arrested since Morsi took over and the word in Fayoum is that he is even tougher than his predecessor.

'Sanctions forced change in South Africa'

By Christopher Wilson
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — Economic sanctions against South Africa have worked.

This is the conclusion of economists and political analysts who believe that the level of pain inflicted on South Africa by sanctions had become unendurable and was a major factor behind the government's recent sweeping political reforms.

Anti-apartheid campaigners worldwide hailed the lifting of a 30-year-old ban on the African National Congress (ANC) by President F.W. de Klerk and his promise of freedom for jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela as a victory for sanctions.

Sceptical analysts who once feared that financial and trade penalties would only stiffen the white government's resolve to cling to power and increase its hostility towards the outside world now concede that sanctions played a pivotal role in bringing political change.

"Without doubt it was necessary to put pressure on the government to implement reforms. One can't deny that sanctions have played a role in this," said Sampe Terreblanche, professor of economics at Stellenbosch University.

Others agree. "It would be naive to believe that sanctions had no part in the recent reforms," said Ronnie Bethlehem, chief economist at mining house Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.

Terreblanche added: "The answer is not now to impose more sanctions. If the U.S. lifts sanctions, it could give de Klerk a boost to carry on with the reforms he has started."

"This game of sticks and carrots has to be played with great sophistication," he said.

Economists expect the United States to take the lead in reassessing sanctions as it did in 1986 when Congress enacted the comprehensive anti-apartheid act, barring imports of South African iron, steel, coal, agricultural produce and krugerrands and halting new investment and bank loans.

But few believe sanctions will be rolled back until the government releases Mandela and starts power-sharing negotiations with the black majority.

"A reassessment of sanctions is now called for by the U.S. and the European Community. But the timing is very delicate. If sanctions are lifted too quickly, it could alienate the ANC," said a Western diplomat in Pretoria.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said on Tuesday the European Community should lift its ban on new investment in South Africa when Mandela is freed.

But political analysts said Thatcher risked losing leverage with blacks if she pushed too hard to ease the pressure on Pretoria.

They added that foreign companies would not be keen to invest here as long as the ANC advocates nationalisation of major industries.

Economists point to a landmark speech by former Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock in 1988, in which he said Pretoria would have to devise a more equitable political system if it hoped to stem the flight of capital and revive growth.

They said the speech revealed traces of panic in high government circles about how severely sanctions were squeezing the economy.

Battle lines on the vexed sanctions issue are as clear inside South Africa as the racial divide itself. Most black leaders — in the ANC, anti-apartheid groups, the churches and the trade unions — support them. Most whites oppose them.

"Sanctions have played a major part in bringing South Africa this far. To lift the pressure now would be premature. The time to lift sanctions is once political negotiations are underway," said reformed churches leader Allan Boesak.

Meanwhile, local businessmen have become expert sanctions busters and South African companies operating abroad have learned to cover their tracks for fear of embarrassing attacks on their products and customers.

South African trade is now a murky business of middlemen, front companies, bills of lading with differing destinations and clandestine shipments through politically neutral countries.

Despite the bravado associated with circumventing sanctions, the psychological impact of disinvestment by a string of big-name multinational companies and the retreat into a siege economy has taken its toll.

The annual growth rate dropped to under two per cent in the 1980s from an average four per cent in the 1970s. The value of the rand has plummeted by two thirds against the dollar and halved against sterling over the past decade.

Black unemployment, estimated at 35 per cent, is soaring. Economists say that without foreign investment and bank loans, South Africa cannot hope to generate the four or five per cent growth it needs to keep pace with the burgeoning population.

Capital outflows have been huge — about \$12 billion since 1984 — most of it used to repay foreign debt after international creditor banks cut off loans in

August 1985. Many believe this was the most damaging sanction of all.

"De Klerk realises the status quo cannot continue. The dilem-

ma he now faces is how to get the economy moving again," said Robert Schrire, political science professor at the University of Cape Town.

Communism retains potency for anti-apartheid South Africans

By William MacLean
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's tiny Communist Party (SACP), free to operate openly after the government lifted a 40-year ban on Friday, has an influence in the anti-apartheid movement that belies its size.

Party members occupy key positions in the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla organisation, also unbanned by President F.W. de Klerk, and in rapidly growing black trade unions. Left-wing activists and academics said the SACP is held in respect by many blacks who believe business has profited from the large pool of cheap black labour created by apartheid.

"Oppression and capitalism go hand in hand," said Peter Mokaba of the South African Youth Congress, a major anti-apartheid group close to the ANC.

"Capitalism and racism are inextricably intertwined in South Africa," said university teacher Neville Alexander.

Cries of "Viva SACP" and "Slovo is our hero", a reference to Communist party leader Jose Slovo, are routine at meetings of a wide variety of anti-apartheid organisations.

Slovo is a one-time supreme

commander of the ANC's military wing and still has a top post with the ANC. A white South African, he has been reviled by the authorities as public enemy number one.

The SACP's popularity soared during an uprising against white rule between 1984 and 1986 that radicalised black township youth, although membership is believed to have been kept deliberately small at around a few hundred for security reasons.

Left-wing activists said they believed the unbanning of the party sprang from the collapse of Communist rule in Eastern Europe, which had had a moderating influence on the SACP and convinced Pretoria that Marxism was no longer a threat.

The youth are very aware of Eastern Europe and support perestroika, said Mokaba, referring to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union.

Alexander told Reuters former guerrillas trained in Eastern Europe before pro-democracy movements took hold there last year had said they were disillusioned by their experiences.

"Many of the political cadres and guerrillas were alienated by conditions there," he said.

Events in Eastern Europe led the 69-year-old Zambian-based

SACP recently to abandon its long-held support for Stalinist Communism and embrace Gorbachev's reforms.

Slovo wrote recently that Socialism had crumbled in Eastern Europe because it had become distorted, but the ideology still had a place in South Africa's future.

He said the party had moved away from the type of Socialism practised in Eastern Europe after World War II.

The SACP, secretive and intellectual, and the mass-based ANC, the main organisation fighting white rule, are both committed to ending the inequalities of wealth between black and white and to a measure of nationalisation of industry.

An important source of SACP support has been the growth in membership of black unions, legalised in 1979. The unions say giant mining companies practise forms of apartheid in the workplace that would be illegal in Western Europe or North America.

A left-wing doctor close to the SACP said few Communists would feel confident enough to admit to membership of the party immediately.

"People will wait and see, they will be a little hesitant," he said.

Western dreams of a 'peace dividend' may still be long way off

By Stephen Jukes
Reuters

LONDON — In their minds, Western politicians are already spending defence savings caused by troop cuts in Europe, but economists say the "peace dividend" of East bloc reform could impose heavy social and economic costs.

Such experts say the prospect of huge defence cuts promised by the revolution in the Eastern bloc will in the short term prove elusive and redrawing the military map of Europe could, on the contrary, impose uncharted burdens on people and economies.

White House proposals for deeper U.S. and Soviet forces cuts in Europe and a growing perception in the West that the Warsaw Pact poses a dwindling

military threat, have raised hopes for massive savings on defence budgets in coming years.

Belgium and the Netherlands have already indicated they are anxious to cash in the peace dividend and cut their troop levels in West Germany.

In Washington, as the annual ritual of negotiating the budget begins, congressmen are looking to fund domestic programmes through defence cuts.

But economists caution that at a time when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is taking the biggest gamble of his career in breaking the Communist Party's monopoly on power, the political and military picture of Eastern Europe is far from stable.

"Instability in Eastern Europe argues against doing away with armies altogether and the need

for a rapid response force in the West — that would be very expensive," said Jim Rollo, economist at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

"Until the strategic options are clarified, we don't really know what the peace dividend is."

In the short-term, economists say troop cuts could spark expensive reorganisation of NATO forces and produce knock-on effects throughout West European economies where thousands of jobs depend on the military structure of the past 40 years.

Hopes for a peace dividend stem from the crushing burden of defence spending caused by Western commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as guarantor of their security.

In what has been dubbed the first post-cold war budget, the Pentagon has requested \$306.9 billion for defence in the 1991 fiscal year starting in October. It represents a cautious cut of just two per cent in real terms and a huge \$180 billion of the total will go to maintaining European defence where 325,000 army, navy and air force personnel are stationed.

"There's going to be a peace dividend, but it's not going to be as large as some naively think at the moment," White House Budget Director Richard Darman said 10 days ago.

To keep the 57,500-strong British army in West Germany plus air force personnel costs about \$4.3 billion (\$7.3 billion) in the current fiscal year, defence officials say.

Figures compiled by NATO show defence spending made up an average 6.3 per cent of U.S. gross domestic product over the past five years, while the burden on Britain was 4.6 per cent, on the Netherlands 3.0 per cent and on Belgium 2.9 per cent.

Analysts say the true peace dividend looks likely to be pushed well into the future and will be closely linked to the progress on arms talks between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

President George Bush's new proposal to leave 195,000 U.S. troops in West Germany, plus plans to close or cut back 10 bases in Europe, appears to be part of a complex balancing act.

Analysts say Bush wants to head off calls in Congress for bigger defence cuts as budget negotiations get under way. But

he also wants to allay concern among West European leaders that U.S. troops will pull out too soon or be cut unilaterally.

Even a relatively modest demilitarisation of West Germany could have a heavy initial social and economic cost.

— U.S. forces in West Germany spend about \$4.4 billion marks (\$8.4 billion) a year in the economy. According to U.S. figures, some 65,000 West German nationals are employed directly by the military and another 125,000 jobs are dependent on U.S. forces. In 1988, the army was the 13th largest non-governmental employer. A cut of about 50,000 U.S. troops, now contemplated by Bush, could have a knock-on effect throughout the economy.

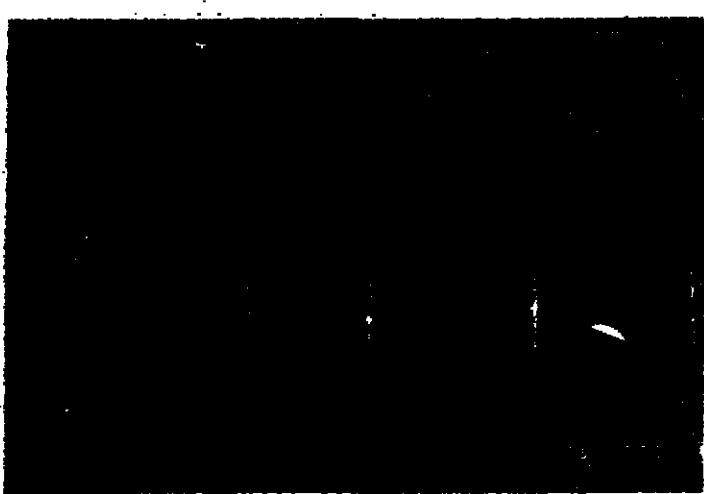
Invité à Amman à l'occasion de la première «tribune» musicale arabe

Patrick Lama: la tradition contemporaine

La première «tribune radiophonique» consacrée à la musique traditionnelle arabe s'est déroulée à Amman du 3 au 7 février, à l'occasion de la 12ème réunion du bureau exécutif de l'Académie de musique arabe (AMA). Parmi les artistes invités, figurent notamment le pianiste et compositeur d'origine

paléstinienne Patrick Lama. Depuis son installation à Paris en 1967, ce «musicien-chercheur» se consacre à l'étude approfondie des mélodies et des rythmes de la musique des premiers siècles de l'islam. Etude, qu'il a mise au service de ses propres compositions.

Ne nous méprenons pas. Tout analyseur des courants traditionnels arabes qu'il soit, Patrick Lama est un compositeur de musique contemporaine. Ainsi, à l'interprétation pour piano, qu'il a interprétée pour la première fois en 1967 dans les salons de l'Institut du monde arabe, ses compositions sont marquées par une originalité et une créativité qui ne sont pas étrangères à la musique arabe des premiers siècles de l'islam, celle du temps de la «Renaissance» islamique et des premiers siècles.



Patrick Lama jouant ses œuvres mercredi dernier: une première à Amman.

Parfois, ses compositions sont marquées par une originalité et une créativité qui ne sont pas étrangères à la musique arabe des premiers siècles de l'islam, celle du temps de la «Renaissance» islamique et des premiers siècles.

Le projet du jeune musicien paléstinien se fera pas le jour. La guerre de 1967 le pousse à partir, à l'étranger. De 1967 à 1972, Patrick Lama prend des cours de direction d'orchestre et de composition, avec le compositeur français Henri Dutilleul. «Dès le début de mes études, je pensais à écrire des œuvres», affirme-t-il.

Le compositeur les a cependant mises au service d'une écriture musicale moderne et destinée à des instruments occidentaux. Il en va de même pour le chant, qu'il a composé pour voix mezzo-soprano, accompagné par un quatuor ou ne peut plus occidental: hautbois, clarinette, flûte et piano. «Le gros problème actuel des musiciens arabes vient de leur complexité à l'égard de l'Europe ou des Etats-Unis. Soit ils imitent l'Occident, soit ils s'orientent vers des instruments, qu'ils ridiculisent le plus souvent».

Selon lui, ces «complexes» sont à l'origine d'un «manque important de création musicale contemporaine dans le monde arabe». «Le plus grand problème, les musiciens arabes ont copié celles de l'Occident. Or, alors, ils écrivent des œuvres, de médiocre qualité musicale, qui répondent avant tout à des sollicitations politiques. Du coup, notre culture se fige et il est encore dur de faire comprendre ici que la création musicale authentique est possible».

Vote du budget 1990 par le Parlement

Pleins feux sur la crise économique

Après une semaine de discussions internes, la Chambre des députés a adopté le 7 une semaine le projet de budget 1990 du gouvernement. Sur les 75 parlementaires présents en séance, 19 ont voté contre et 4 sont absents. Si les débats ont montré que la «jeune démocratie» jordanienne se porte bien, ils ont aussi mis en évidence l'acuité de la crise économique nationale.

Elaboration d'un programme national de développement.

Enfin, à l'instar de Leith Chbeilat, quelques députés ont demandé la «militarisation» de la société jordanienne. A en croire l'élu de la capitale, une telle mesure permettrait à la nation de résoudre ses problèmes de consommation tout en lui permettant, si cela devient nécessaire, de faire face à Israël.

La plupart des intervenants ont souligné le besoin de développement de l'agriculture, afin de «diminuer la dépendance alimentaire» du royaume. Beaucoup ont estimé que le secteur primaire pouvait offrir des emplois à nombre de chômeurs et devrait jouer un rôle important dans l'augmentation des exportations.

A l'issue de la dernière séance, samedi, beaucoup de députés sont satisfaits. Dans sa réponse à la Chambre, le premier ministre a refusé toute augmentation rapide des salaires, ainsi qu'il le réclamait. Moudar Badran a souligné que le dinar ajusté à la feuille de paye mensuelle des fonctionnaires coûtera 4,5 millions de dinars au Trésor. Un déficit, que le gouvernement espère combler avec les subventions promises par les Etats arabes pétroliers, dont l'Arabie Saoudite et les Emirats Arabes Unis.

Le premier ministre a par contre proposé la mise en place d'un plan de lutte contre le chômage. Il s'agit essentiellement de mesures administratives, tel le remplacement de la main d'œuvre immigrée, le recyclage et la formation des chômeurs et l'ouverture de bureaux de placement.

Sulehman Sweiss.

Le rôle de l'UNESCO «Diffuser la musique traditionnelle»

Le Conseil international de la musique (CIM), organisme de l'UNESCO basé à Paris, est à l'origine des «tribunes radiophoniques» offertes aux compositeurs et interprètes de musiques traditionnelles dans le monde. Jeudi s'est achevée à Amman la première de ce genre dans le monde arabe. Gay Hnat, secrétaire exécutif du CIM, explique au «Jourdain» le rôle de diffusion des œuvres «recommandées» que joue le Conseil.

Le Jourdain: Quel bilan faites-vous de cette première tribune de la musique traditionnelle arabe?

Gay Hnat: Positif. Même si cette première tribune s'est déroulée difficilement de celles que nous organisons habituellement en Asie, en Afrique, en Amérique du Sud ou aux Caraïbes. D'abord, sa création à Amman a coïncidé avec une réunion du bureau de l'Académie de musique arabe (AMA), organisme de la Ligue arabe et nous gardons probablement la même formule dans l'avenir. Ensuite, les pays participants ont présenté eux-mêmes leurs œuvres, quand ils ne les ont pas interprétées devant nous. Nous avons ainsi eu droit à de véritables paysages sonores du monde arabe.

L.J.: Quelle action allez-vous mener en faveur des œuvres et des musiciens sélectionnés par la tribune?

G.H.: Première chose, le secrétaire de l'AMA à Bagdad va préparer une bande maîtresse des œuvres recommandées par la tribune. Des copies seront ensuite offertes à toutes les radios des pays arabes. Par ailleurs, un autre enregistrement sera fait pour nous et nous allons le proposer aux stations arabes, asiatiques... avec lesquelles le Conseil international de la musique est en contact. La diffusion des musiques traditionnelles est notre rôle essentiel.

L.J.: De quels autres moyens de promotion disposez-vous?

G.H.: Ils sont très variés. Nous avons, par exemple, une collection de disques de musiques traditionnelles, qui comporte aujourd'hui à peu près 150 titres. Nous sommes d'ailleurs en train de les rééditer graduellement en disques compacts et cassettes avec l'aide de la compagnie française Audiotex. Le CIM travaille également, depuis déjà une dizaine d'années, à la réalisation d'une encyclopédie mondiale de la musique...

L.J.: La diffusion à grande échelle ne conduit-elle parfois à une perte d'authenticité, compositeurs et interprètes s'adaptant à leurs nouveaux publics?

G.H.: C'est une crainte qui a été assez souvent évoquée pendant nos discussions. Je crois que la transformation des musiques, au contact des autres cultures ou par besoin de commercialisation, est une évolution normale. Mais il faut parallèlement préserver la tradition telle qu'elle devrait être. C'est aussi notre tâche.

L.J.: La création musicale est l'un des problèmes majeurs de la musique arabe. Le CIM peut-il à son tour jouer un rôle?

G.H.: En principe, le CIM peut fournir une aide à la création. En pratique, je ne sais pas encore comment ça peut se faire. C'est au contact de nos collègues arabes, avec lesquels nous avons désormais rendez-vous tous les deux ans, que je l'apprendrai.

Propos recueillis par A. R.

Canal France International-JTV

D'avantage de programmes en français

La télévision jordanienne a inauguré jeudi la mise en service de la station satellite, qui lui permet désormais de recevoir les images de Canal France International (CFI), au rythme de quatre heures de programmes chaque jour.

C'est fait. Depuis jeudi, la JTV reçoit les images que lui envoie CFI depuis la France via le satellite Intelsat 5 F11. La station de réception, installée dans le bâtiment de la radio-télévision nationale, en effet inaugurée le 8 février.

L'adhésion de la JTV à Canal France International va lui permettre de disposer désormais de 1400 heures annuelles de programmes, au lieu des 550 actuelles, dont la majeure partie était achetée sur vidéo-cassettes par avion. Sélectionnés par CFI auprès des chaînes françaises, ces programmes se composent pour un tiers de fiction, pour un autre tiers de divertissement et pour un dernier tiers de sujets d'information, de magazines culturels ou sportifs.

«Nous offrons ces programmes libres de droits, a souligné jeudi au cours d'une conférence de presse à Amman le président de CFI, Fouad Benhalla. Nous fournissons les images et l'antenne gratuitement. La JTV se charge ensuite de leur traitement. Elle fera ce qu'elle voudra des modules que nous lui adressons, comme tous les partenaires de CFI». M. Benhalla a ajouté que la JTV avait fait la «promesse» d'augmenter de volume horaire de son programme en français.

L'ambassadeur de France a indiqué pour sa part que «l'accord entre CFI et la JTV s'inscrit dans le cadre du nouvel élan que nous voulons donner à notre coopération, déjà ancienne avec la télévision nationale». Denis Bauchard a également annoncé que la France allait «développer ses pro-



Fouad Benhalla, président de CFI.

grammes de stages au profit des techniciens locaux et qu'elle restait «prête à aider la JTV à produire des programmes francophones».

La Jordanie est le premier pays de la région à s'associer avec CFI, qui compte actuellement une vingtaine de clients arabes et européens de l'Est. «Dans les trois mois qui viennent», selon Fouad Benhalla, l'Egypte et la Syrie devraient prendre le même chemin, avec à la clé la création de programmes en français sur les télévisions des deux pays.

EN BREF

Emploi. Le ministre jordanien du Travail a suspendu jeudi l'octroi de permis de travail aux étrangers et décidé de mener une enquête pour mettre un terme à l'emploi d'immigrés clandestins dans le pays. Selon les autorités, ces derniers représenteraient en effet plus de 78% des 210.000 étrangers travaillant dans le royaume. Ces mesures font suite aux déclarations du ministre du Travail, Gassim Obeidat, qui a appelé la semaine dernière à la mise en place d'un «programme d'urgence» pour donner cette année 25.000 emplois à des ressortissants nationaux. D'après les chiffres officiels, 100.000 Jordaniens, sur une population active totale de quelque 600.000 personnes, se trouvent actuellement au chômage.

CCA. Le secrétaire général du Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA) a affirmé mercredi à Amman que l'immigration des juifs soviétiques en Israël sera la question la «plus importante» parmi celles qui seront débattues au sommet du 24 février prochain en Jordanie. Qualifiant cette vague de nouveaux arrivants de «défi évident pour les pays arabes», Hilmi Nammer a notamment souligné que ses «répercussions» se révéleraient «dangereuses» pour le règlement de la question palestinienne. Lundi, 97 personnalités (dont les rédacteurs en chef des journaux) et parlementaires jordaniens ont adressé une pétition à l'ambassade d'URSS à Amman, appelant Moscou à une «action rapide visant à arrêter cette immigration massive vers la Palestine occupée».

Réunion. L'OCL a officiellement demandé à la Jordanie d'accueillir une réunion du Conseil central palestinien au début du mois de mars. Structure consultative intermédiaire entre la direction du mouvement et le Conseil national palestinien, le CCP pourvu de 100 membres a été créé par le Fatah et le FPLP. Nayef Hawatmeh et Georges Habache, pour la première fois depuis septembre 1970.

Revolutions. L'un des principaux groupes islamistes des territoires occupés, Beit Al Makdess, a revendiqué lundi depuis Amman l'attentat du week-end dernier contre un autobus, qui transportait des touristes israéliens près d'Israël en Egypte. La veille, une organisation inconnue avait été accusée d'être responsable dans cet acte terroriste, qui a coûté la vie à 11 personnes. Alors que les autorités du Caire poursuivent leur investigation, le Front populaire de libération de la Palestine-Commandement général (FPLP-CG) d'Ahmed Jibril a démenti mercredi depuis Damas être impliqué dans l'attentat.

Révolution. Au terme de deux jours et demi d'après débats, marqués par une offensive en règle des conservateurs contre Mikhail Gorbatchev, le plénum du Comité central du Parti communiste soviétique a finalement accepté mercredi d'ouvrir la voie au multipartisme en URSS en adoptant la proposition du numéro un soviétique d'abroger l'article 6 de la Constitution, qui affirme le rôle dirigeant exclusif du PC dans le pays. Point important de la réforme politique nationale envisagée par M. Gorbatchev, cette décision doit cependant être approuvée par le 28e Congrès du PC soviétique, prévu fin juin ou début juillet, pour entrer en vigueur. Le vote est intervenu au moment où le secrétaire d'Etat américain entamait une visite de trois jours en URSS. Le voyage de James Baker entre dans le cadre de la préparation du prochain sommet Bush-Gorbatchev de juin, aux Etats-Unis.

Vote immigré. Quelque 130 organisations viennent de créer un «Collectif pour le droit de vote des résidents étrangers aux élections locales, en France, avec pour objectif d'obtenir l'entrée en vigueur d'une loi en ce sens avant la fin de la législature, en 1992. Ce droit comprendrait également l'éligibilité des résidents étrangers aux mêmes élections, c'est-à-dire «municipales, cantonales et régionales», a précisé mercredi M. Henri Leduc, vice-président de la Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, au cours d'une conférence de presse.

Tentation. Des épouses de marins de la Royal Navy ont protesté mardi contre la décision du gouvernement britannique d'autoriser les personnels féminins de l'armée à servir sur les frégates. «Je n'aime pas ça. Vous ne pouvez pas vous attendre à ce que les hommes restent dans leurs quartiers et les femmes dans les leurs», a notamment souligné l'une d'entre elles, plutôt effrayée par cette révolution... typiquement britannique.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Life with father, de Michael Curtiz, avec William Powell, Irene Dunne et Elizabeth Taylor. L'éducation d'une jeune fille par un père affectueux mais autoritaire et nostalgique de l'époque victorienne, qui est volontiers de la baguette de bambou. Un aperçu sur la vie quotidienne à New York au tournant du siècle.

1946 (en anglais), 11 février, 4 1946 (en anglais).

Orson Welles. Regard sur l'écrivain, l'acteur, le réalisateur et producteur, récompensé en 1970 (Oscar spécial) pour l'ensemble de son œuvre cinématographique, dont son fameux «Citizen Kane».

Centre américain, mardi 13 février à 19h00 (en anglais).

Sophie's choice, d'Alan J. Pakula, avec Meryl Streep et Kevin Kline. En 1947, l'Amérique tente d'effacer toutes les séquelles de la deuxième guerre mondiale, en dépit des drames personnels...

Centre américain, jeudi 15 février à 19h00 (en anglais).

Ciné-club. Séances à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 18h30 et 20h00. Nouveau film, le lundi à 20h00. Projection pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 15h00.

Samedi 16: Gaged edge: The world, according to Gary; Bugsy Malone; Little girl who lives; Four.

Dimanche 17: Blood of others (I); Blood of others (II); Hotel New Hampshire; Working girl; Bad lands.

Lundi 18: Crisis; Heat; Coal miner's daughter; Missing; The river.

Mardi 19: L. star; Possession; L'Histoire d'Adèle H.; Norstar; Time after time.

Mercredi 20: Camille (I); Camille (II); Moby and Howard; Mid summer night; Ragtime.

Jeudi 21: Cross creek; Romantic comedy; Dead of winter; The driver; Space hunter.

Vendredi 22: Pretty in pink; Tempest; Two brain men; Body heat; Les Diamants du Nil.

Films en version originale: 82 63991. Route de l'université de Jordanie, première à droite après l'ambassade, puis première à gauche. Le ciné-club se trouve à environ 300m, sur la gauche.

Films européens. La délégation de la CEE en Jordanie, en collaboration avec les ambassadeurs de la Commission européenne, proposent huit rendez-vous avec le cinéma des années 1980 du Vieux Continent.

Château Philadelphie, du samedi 10 au dimanche 18 février. Séances à 20h00. Entrée libre. (Voir encadré).

CONCERT

Trío. Les violonistes français Joëlle Gérard et Bernard Mauppin, accompagnés au piano par Elsa Matouk, interprètent des œuvres de Beethoven, Vivaldi, Leduc, Dvorak, Fauré, Massenet et Bartok.

Université du Yarmouk, Irbid, samedi 10 février à 18h00. Prix des places: 4 dinars.

EXPOSITIONS

Photo. 29 images pour 29 mises en scène de Chéreau, Mesguich, Mnouchkine, Savary, Vitez... captées par les photographes français Brigitte et Marc Enguerand.

Centre culturel français, jusqu'au 22 février.

Peinture. «Du réalisme à l'abstrait» exposition consacrée aux peintres Ali al-Shanti Amour, Nabila Hilmi en Nawal al-Abdallah.

Centre culturel scientifique de la Fondation Shweiss, jusqu'au 28 février. Les œuvres de 1980 à 1986, sauf le vendredi. Tél: 679166.

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Higher interest rates, Third World lending press Japanese banks

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese banks may have a lion's share of the international banking business, but they now must come to grips with the same problems that hampered many big U.S. banks in the last decade: bad Third World loans, rising interest rates and a potential downturn in their domestic real estate market.

"It's clear the Japanese banks will be pressured to take on a more philanthropic role," Simon Smithson, an analyst with Kleinwort Benson Securities, said of Japan's Third World debt exposure. "Some hard decisions will have to be made."

Japanese banks now constitute the world's 10 biggest on basis of assets, partly due to growth stemming from the booming Japanese economy of the 1980s and the rise of the yen against the dollar.

As they grew so did their international business, including such areas as developing-country loans that now are seen as potential trouble spots.

In recent years, U.S. banks have restructured a significant portion of their loans to many Latin American countries while beefing up reserves for covering bad loans and writing down the

value of some credits. Those actions directly reduced profits.

Japanese banks generally have a lower overall exposure to Third World debt than do U.S. banks, with Latin American loans accounting for an estimated three per cent to six per cent of commercial banks' outstanding loans. However, their reserves for covering bad loans also are relatively small.

Major U.S. and British banks have reserves to cover as much as 80 per cent of their outstanding Third World loans. Japanese banks are just now raising their reserves to 25 per cent from 15 per cent by the end of March.

Japanese banks also are set to take an earnings hit by writing off a portion of their medium and long-term loans to Mexico following a recently approved debt restructuring agreement between Mexico and 450 creditor banks.

Japan also has potential loan problems on the domestic front. Smithson said trust banks' loans to corporations and commercial banks' loans to individuals for real estate could be hit hard by a major downturn in the overheated Japanese property market.

"Many of the loans those banks make are ultimately for real estate and could become irrecoverable," he said.

Concern over Tokyo's inflated land prices reaches into many sectors of the economy. The rate of increase has slowed since 1987, when land prices grew 70 per cent, to 24 per cent in 1988 and 2.7 per cent in the first six months of 1989 — leading some analysts to conclude that prices could soften or fall.

Reflecting uncertainty over Japan's overheated property market Moody's Investors Service Inc. this week downgraded its credit ratings for Japan's three largest trust banks — Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corp., Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co., and Mitsu Trust and Banking Co.

Land in Tokyo's highest-priced residential area actually fell in the first half of last year, by 4.4 per cent from a year earlier, the National Land Agency reported. In an average-priced Tokyo neighbourhood, a square metre of residential land costs 1 million yen (\$6,900), according to a survey last spring by the Association of Real Estate Appraisers.

But Tokyo's commercial land prices continued to edge up last year. The most expensive commercial property cost 35.3 million yen (\$254,000) a square metre last year, up from 33.6 million yen (\$242,000) the previous year, the National Land Agency said. Land prices in less-developed suburbs also continued rising, it said.

Richard Koo, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute, said falling land prices right now would have limited impact on bank assets.

"Japanese banks use extremely conservative accounting methods sometimes (using) the actual acquisition price from 20 years ago, so even a 30 per cent decline in land prices wouldn't do that much damage," he said.

E. Europe debt rises

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Most East European countries slipped deeper into debt to Western banks in the third quarter of 1989 as their struggling economies continued to soak up foreign capital, according to the West's clearing bank.

Figures Thursday by the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) show that the Soviet Union, fighting to modernise, was the region's biggest borrower in the quarter.

Adjusted for exchange rates, its foreign bank debt grew by \$1.58 billion in the period to \$42.06 billion.

Gross debt in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Albania also rose, but other countries' indebtedness declined when exchange rates were adjusted, the BIS said.

The BIS acts as the clearing house for the world's leading central banks and monitors the international flow of money among banks in major financial centres.

Banks reporting to the BIS said their total lending to the region swelled by \$1.93 billion between the end of June and the end of September to \$91.80 billion. The major Western banks loaned the region \$5.54 billion in the first half of 1989.

The Soviet Union's borrowing accounted for almost all of the loans to Eastern Europe in the quarter. Its foreign bank debt has risen by around \$9 billion in the year ended last September, making its indebtedness roughly equal to Australia's.

The Soviet Union also withdrew \$675 million in foreign deposits, bringing its total down to \$14.77 billion. In addition, its borrowing on international bond markets rose by \$500 million in the quarter to \$1.4 billion.

The next biggest borrower in the period was Czechoslovakia, whose bank debt rose an adjusted \$223 million to \$4.6 billion.

Hungary's debt to BIS reporting banks advanced by \$158 million to \$11.4 billion, and Bulgaria's outstanding borrowing climbed by \$104 million to \$7.48 billion.

Bass completes deal for Holiday Inn chain

ATLANTA (AP) — The worldwide base of Holiday Inns is moving to Atlanta, though the U.S. operations of "the world's innkeeper" will remain in Memphis, Tennessee, a British brewer said Thursday after completing a \$2.2 billion acquisition of the motel chain.

Bass PLC of Great Britain announced it had completed the acquisition about three weeks after Holiday Corp. shareholders overwhelmingly approved the sale of the chain and three years after Bass became involved in the business by buying eight European Holiday Inns.

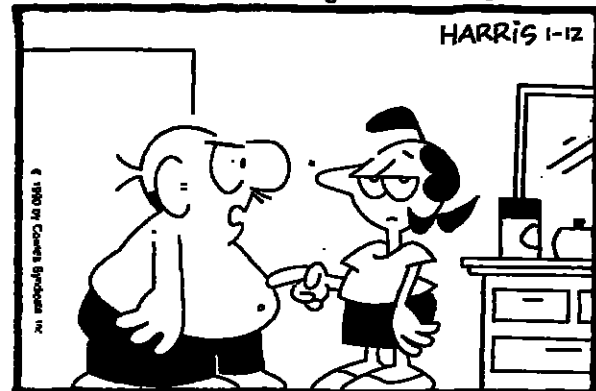
Bass, which has more than 7,300 pubs and restaurants in the United Kingdom and brews a variety of beers including Bass and Carling Black Label, sought the Holiday Inns in an effort to establish itself as an international force in the hotel industry.

Holiday Inns have 1,589 hotels and 318,012 rooms in 52 countries around the world.

"We've been moving toward this global situation for a few years," said Hamish Swan, vice president of Bass' hotels division.

Swan said the Atlanta headquarters will include a relatively small staff including Bryan Langton, the chairman of the Bass hotels and restaurants division who will become chairman and chief executive officer of Holiday Inns Inc.

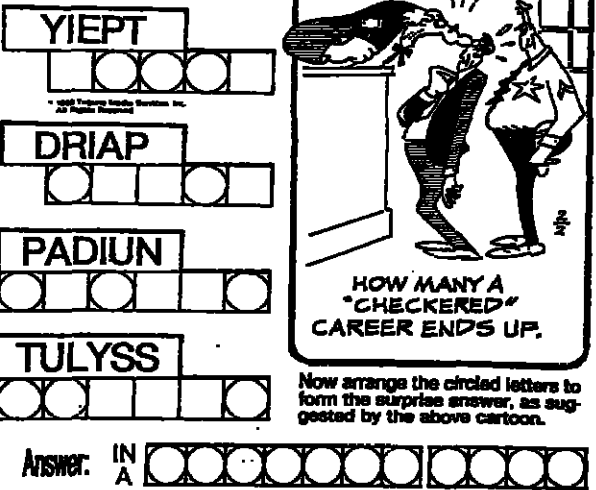
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"The universe is expanding, so it's only natural that my waist will expand with it!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: IN A
Yesterday's Jumble: HONEY LARVA WALNUT MORBID
Answer: If he starts right out complaining about her cooking, she'll learn better — OR HE WILL.

E. Germany brakes rush to union

EAST BERLIN (R) — The East German government has put a brake on the headlong rush towards German unity, telling Bonn that currency union will have to wait at least until after its first free elections next month.

West Germany is pushing all out to merge its powerful currency with the non-convertible East German mark as a first step to political union.

But East German Economics Minister Christa Luft said Thursday her government did not have the authority to bargain away effective control of its economy to Bonn.

"Such a union has such huge economic and social consequences that a government with only a few weeks left in office understandably cannot give its blessing," Luft told Reuters during an international conference in Potsdam.

The East German elections, unprecedented in a country ruled by communists since its founding in 1949, are due March 18.

Earlier Prime Minister Hans Modrow said he would not respond to an offer to discuss currency union with West Germany until he visited Bonn next week.

He told West German television he had not even been officially informed of the offer, made by the Bonn cabinet Wednesday, but heard about it through the media.

A week ago most observers saw currency union as a far-off goal but West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl appears to have staked his political future on it.

West Germany holds its own national elections in December. Kohl's call Tuesday for immediate talks on currency union was coupled with a rider that he knew it would be impossible to achieve before next month's East German elections.

But the West German leader, who until recently was preaching patience to East Germans demanding a single state, overrode his fiercely independent central bank Wednesday and decided to seek immediate monetary union.

"We must remain master of the political process," said Finance Minister Theo Waigel announcing Bonn's bold decision.

Bonn fears East Germany's fragile economy might collapse as thousands of people leave for the West each day and says it would rather face the consequences of

quick union than watch its eastern neighbour slowly disintegrate.

But its bold overtures have opened a Pandora's box of worries over financial and political stability.

The two Germans are split between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, the Western military alliance, which has called for concrete plans on the future of European security.

The Frankfurt bond market got the jitters about rising inflation, sending money market rates soaring.

"West Germany is about to embark on a huge political gamble with economic consequences which cannot be calculated," said Graham Bishop of brokers Salomon Brothers in London. "It is a leap in the dark."

Sweden proposes price-wage freeze

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The government Thursday proposed a two-year wage-price freeze and a ban on strikes, in what it called a take-it-or-leave-it package to bring crippling labour action under control.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said his Social Democratic government could not remain in office if the package fell in parliament, in what amounted to a rare resignation threat.

Opposition members accused the government of imposing economic martial law and a communist-style planned economy, at a time when such systems were being ditched in Eastern Europe.

"If parliament rejects our demands, the government can stay on," Carlsson told a news conference. "We will not administer an economy which is falling apart." A vote was expected next week.

The plan was designed to curb swiftly rising wages and an inflation rate of 8.6 per cent, twice the West European average.

It would suspend a 50-year-old agreement under which powerful unions and employers associations quietly negotiated wage policy without government intervention.

Collective bargaining was a pillar of the Swedish welfare system, which has eliminated poverty and guaranteed health and schooling for everyone. The Swedish mix of socialism and capitalism became a model for the industrial welfare state.

The package outlined in parliament by Finance Minister Kjell-Olof Feldt proposed a two-year freeze on wages, prices, local taxes, rents and stock dividends.

Strikes were prohibited for the duration of the plan, through 1991, and strikers would face fines of 5,000 kronor.

To help curb absenteeism and cheating on sick leave, the government said it would stop paying salaries for the first two weeks of illness, and the burden would shift to the employer. Under current rules, the government pays sick leave from the first day.

"To make the wage freeze work, it must be combined with a strike freeze," Carlsson said. "If the Riksdag (parliament) takes the package to pieces, the package is meaningless."

The move would pre-empt a strike by 110,000 municipal employees called for next Wednesday which would indefinitely halt public transportation, public health services and day-care centres in Sweden's major cities.

Banks have been shut for 11 days by a lockout of 62,000 bank employees following a deadlock in wage negotiations and workers' sanctions.

The bank conflict has left shoppers strapped for cash, has virtually silenced the stock market and has meant liquidity problems for some companies which may be unable to pay bills and salaries.

The Social Democrats, who govern with a minority, hoped to push the plan through parliament by next Tuesday, but will need to muster support from at least one opposition party on each of its various proposals.

Conservatives and liberals indicated they would go along with a tax freeze, while the communists would support the freeze on prices, rents and stock earnings.

Wave of price rises continues in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Rates for telephones and electricity more than doubled Thursday, and water rates jumped nearly that much, as the government tried again to match the price of public services with their cost.

Last week, the prices of buses, subways, gas, trains, domestic air flights and other services by state-run companies increased drastically last week for the third time since President Carlos Menem took office in July amid hyperinflation and recession.

The ministry of public works announced that electric rates would rise by 133.5 per cent, effective immediately. The cost of telephone calls went up by an average of 112 per cent. Water, for which only commercial users pay, jumped 85 per cent.

Costs were linked with usage. For example, electricity usage up to 120 kilowatts every two months rose to 5,000 australs (\$1.66).

Even middle class residents in the capital think twice about taking a taxi if a bus is available. The latest rate hikes were phased in during the past week. Bus fares shot up by 64 per cent to a minimum of 360 australs (about 12 cents) last Saturday, the same day train tickets increased.

A train ticket from Buenos Aires to the summer resort city of Mar Del Plata, 400 kilometres to the south, that last week cost

3,500 australs now costs 9,600 (about \$3.2), a hike of 174 per cent.

The price of regular gas rose by 38.9 per cent, to 750 australs a litre (about 25 cents), or about \$1 a gallon. Diesel oil rose by 119 per cent and kerosene, 125.8 per cent.

The day after Menem was sworn in on July 8, the government devalued the austral by 54 per cent and hiked public service rates by 200 per cent and more.

In mid-December, the government devalued the austral by 34.5 per cent and hiked public service rates.

Later that month, the government declared it no longer would intervene in exchange markets. The rate has been set ever since by supply and demand, and the austral has slipped in value nearly every day.

The catalyst for the rate hikes is inflation that amounted to 4,923 per cent for 1989. As inflation accelerates, the austral devalues and public revenues erode.

The cost of living rose by 40 per cent in December and 79 per cent in January. It is projected to rise by at least 70 per cent this month.

As recently as several weeks ago, officials at the public works ministry insisted they did not intend to raise public service rates a third time, and hinted rates might even be lowered.

Last weekend, Minister Roberto Dromi said electric rates might go up by 60 to 70 per cent, "or maybe a little more."

Argentines whose wages have not kept pace with inflation or the austral's devaluation reacted with resignation.

"There are so many things I can't do now that I could just two years ago," said Adriana, a travel agent. "I used to go to Villa Gesell (a beach resort town) nearly every weekend. Now I may go twice all summer. ... Owning a car is unthinkable."

Americans hike consumer debt by 6%

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans took out \$4.91 billion more in consumer credit than they retired in December, pushing total consumer debt up six per cent for the year, the Federal Reserve (Fed) has said.

The Fed said consumer credit in December advanced at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 8.3 per cent, up from November's revised 7.8 per cent increase. The November gain originally had been reported to be 7.2 per cent.

But consumer debt rose in both months to its highest level since last February when it increased \$5.38 billion. Consumer credit includes all consumer loans except mortgages.

While credit was up six per cent for the year, it still was a modest increase, said Sandra Shaber, an economist with the Futures Group here. Debt rose 8.5 per cent in 1988 and 7.5 per cent in 1987.

"Nevertheless, it shows that consumer spending continues to

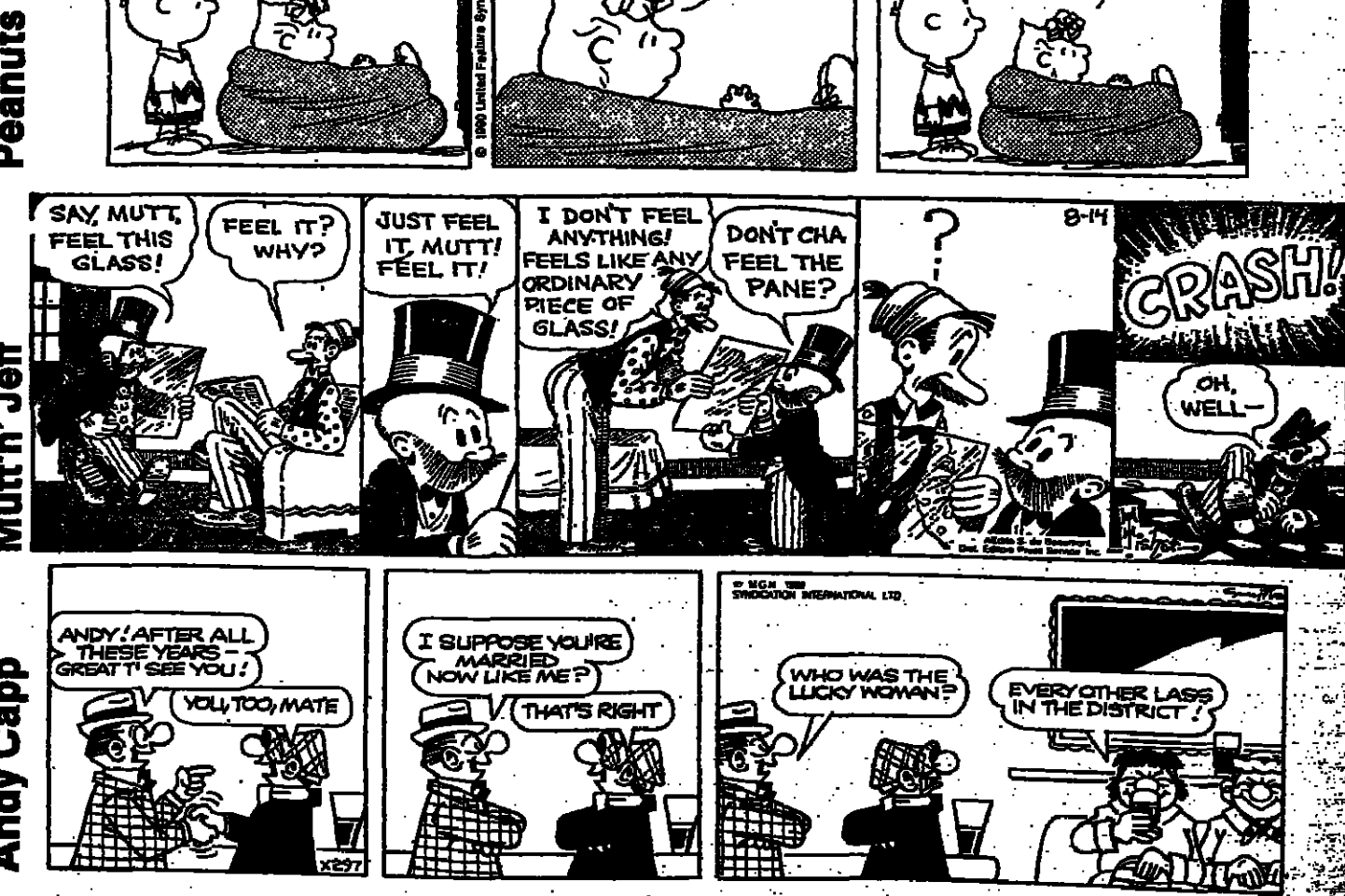
grow modestly," she said. "It's not collapsing" despite the sluggish economy.

The category of debt that includes credit cards jumped 24.5 per cent in the month that included the bulk of holiday shopping. The hike was 17.5 per cent in November, the last week of which has included holiday shopping in recent years.

Total credit card debt outstanding rose \$4.06 billion at an annual rate in December, compared with \$2.86 billion increase in November.

Shaber said that while unit sales were good during the holiday season, profits for many retailers were off because of the discounts they had to offer to lure purchasers.

Auto loans rose a meager 1.1 per cent to \$259 million at an annual rate, down from 1.9 per cent in November. Auto loans posted a 4.1 per cent increase in October.



Malaysia air race

RJ crew wins the 2nd phase

AMMAN (Petra) — "Sagor Al Urdun" (the falcon of Jordan), a Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft taking part in the Malaysia International air race 1990, has won the first place in the second phase of the race by flying the distance between Baharlu and Dhaka in six hours — two hours ahead of actually needed time.

The captain of the aircraft, said that the flight was hard and the crew managed to overcome all problems particularly with regard to weather conditions and strong winds. He expressed confidence that the Jordanian team would win the first place in the remaining phases of the race.

The Majesty King Hussein had earlier called the aircraft crew and congratulated them on their success in the first phase and wished them continued success along the whole route.

France, Belgium, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United Kingdom, and Switzerland are taking part in the race. Two aircraft for France and the United Kingdom withdrew from the race for either failure to cope with weather conditions or for technical failure. A UAS aircraft managed to continue the race after going through technical failure in the first phase of the race.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Denmark hammers UAE 5-0

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (R) — Denmark, who failed to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals, hammered Italy-bound United Arab Emirates (UAE) 5-0 in their second soccer friendly Thursday. Denmark, missing their foreign-based stars, took full advantage as the UAE rested several members of their first team and romped to a 4-0 halftime lead. Denmark coasted through the second half, but UAE goalkeeper Adel Annas made several outstanding saves. Their first meeting on Monday was a 1-1 draw.

Seeds advance in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Fifth-seeded Jim Grabb advanced to the quarter-finals of the \$225,000 San Francisco tennis championships Thursday with a three-set victory over a former college teammate. Grabb defeated fellow-American Derrick Rostagno, with whom he played at nearby Stanford University, 6-2, 6-7, 6-4. In other second-round action, seventh-seeded American Richey Reneberg made quick work of unseeded compatriot Chris Garner 6-1, 6-3. Reneberg, ranked 24th, outclassed Garner, a qualifier rated 210th, using biting groundstrokes and strong returns to score the 60-minute victory.

Graf faces long break

HEIDELBERG, West Germany (R) — World number one Steffi Graf could be out of tennis for up to two months after injuring her playing hand in a skiing accident. The 20-year-old West German broke the bone of her right thumb when she fell while cross country skiing in the Swiss ski resort of St. Moritz, her press spokesman said Thursday. A medical examination at a West German hospital Thursday ruled out earlier reports that Graf had torn ligaments in her right wrist in Wednesday's fall. Doctors at a Heidelberg clinic will examine Graf again Friday and decide whether to operate on the hand. Graf has already told the organizers of two tournaments in Florida next month, at Boca Raton and Key Biscayne, about the injury but has not withdrawn from those events.

ATP tour to be sponsored by IBM

PONTE VEDRA (R) — The ATP tour, in its inaugural season as the sanctioning body of the men's professional tennis tour, announced on Thursday that it had reached a sponsorship agreement with IBM corporation. Terms of the deal, under which IBM will become the title sponsor of the ATP tour, were not disclosed.

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Milan tennis tournament:

Lendl, McEnroe into quarterfinals

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl and second-seeded John McEnroe each won matches Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Milan indoor tennis tournament.

Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, defeated unseeded Soviet Alexander Volkov 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 and will play Jim Courier in the quarterfinals. McEnroe breezed past Italian Davis Cup hero Paolo Cane, 6-4, 6-1.

McEnroe, who had received a warning during a previous match here because he had disputed some calls, was calm during the match against Cane.

"He's always polite when he wins easily," said Cane, who gave Italy a sensational 3-2 Davis Cup victory over Sweden by defeating Mats Wilander in the final singles Monday.

McEnroe, ranking sixth in the world, broke Cane's serve in the tenth game of the first set and twice in the second and had fine volleys and precise longline shots. He also served seven aces, compared with Cane's four.

The crowd did not limit its applause to Cane, the home darling, but also clapped warmly when McEnroe made good shots.

McEnroe said the first set was tough while the second was no problem.

"He was probably tired following the Davis Cup marathon," McEnroe said.

Jelen, 53rd in the ATP lists and unseeded in the Milan tournament, qualified for the quarterfinals when seventh-seeded Austrian Horst Skoff defaulted in the second set of an earlier second-round match.

Skoff, suffering from stomach pains and a flu, retired while leading 5-4.

In other second-round action unseeded American Pete Sampras and Courier achieved wins in straight sets while Milan Srebrer of Czechoslovakia upset third-seeded Aaron Krickstein.

Srebrer, who takes Sampras in the quarterfinals, defeated Krickstein 6-2, 6-3.

Krickstein, the third-seed and ranked 7th in the world, said Srebrer "broke my serve twice at the beginning of both sets and it's difficult to come back on a guy who serves as well as he does."

Australia investigating drugs at Commonwealth Games

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — The head of the senate inquiry into drugs in sport said Friday there was investigation into allegations that an Australian Commonwealth games competitor offered performance-enhancing drugs to teammates.

Sen. John Black said an investigation was underway, but declined to give further details.

"As the head of the senate inquiry into drugs in sport, I was informed as a matter of courtesy but I cannot comment further," Black said.

The Brisbane Sun reported Friday that two athletes had reported the competitor for offering to supply performance-enhancing steroids just before the games began in Auckland, New Zealand, two weeks ago.

The man in question went on to win a gold medal, the newspaper said in a front-page report. It did not identify the sport.

Three weightlifters, two from Wales and one from India, tested positive for muscle-building steroids at the Auckland Games.

Arthur Tunstall, secretary-general of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA), said he knew nothing of an Australian gold medalist pushing steroids at the games.

Tunstall, chief de mission of the Australian team, said he had talked with Black in Auckland two days before the games ended, and that Black had not mentioned the report and he has not heard from the senator since.

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LATE-NIGHT LUNACY

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠	K 4 3 2	♠	A Q J 10 9 7
♥	A K Q 7 5	♥	A 9 8 4 2
♦	A 5 3	♦	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♣	10 8 5 4 3	♣	Q J 10 8 6 5
SOUTH		WEST	
♠	Q	♠	10 9 8 6 5
♥	Q J 10 8 6 5	♥	A J 9 7 6
♦	A J 9 7 6	♦	10 9 8 6 5
♣	Q J 10 8 6 5	♣	10 9 8 6 5

The bidding:
South: 1♣, 2♦, 3♥, 4♥, 5♥, 6♥, 7♥, 8♥, 9♥, 10♥, 11♥, 12♥, 13♥, 14♥, 15♥, 16♥, 17♥, 18♥, 19♥, 20♥, 21♥, 22♥, 23♥, 24♥, 25♥, 26♥, 27♥, 28♥, 29♥, 30♥, 31♥, 32♥, 33♥, 34♥, 35♥, 36♥, 37♥, 38♥, 39♥, 40♥, 41♥, 42♥, 43♥, 44♥, 45♥, 46♥, 47♥, 48♥, 49♥, 50♥, 51♥, 52♥, 53♥, 54♥, 55♥, 56♥, 57♥, 58♥, 59♥, 60♥, 61♥, 62♥, 63♥, 64♥, 65♥, 66♥, 67♥, 68♥, 69♥, 70♥, 71♥, 72♥, 73♥, 74♥, 75♥, 76♥, 77♥, 78♥, 79♥, 80♥, 81♥, 82♥, 83♥, 84♥, 85♥, 86♥, 87♥, 88♥, 89♥, 90♥, 91♥, 92♥, 93♥, 94♥, 95♥, 96♥, 97♥, 98♥, 99♥, 100♥.

Declarer won the opening lead in dummy, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club with dummy's three. East happily overruffed with the four and returned a heart. West ruffed with the jack to insure a contract set, while at the same time creating the impression that it was East who held the last two trumps. On the club return, a thoroughly rattled declarer took care to ruff with the ace of diamonds to prevent East overruffing with her supposed seven. This took care of the last entry to the table, so South tried to discard a club on the high heart. West ruffed again and exited with a trump, and declarer was still stranded with a club loser. Down three! It was not the most difficult hand in the world to make. Declarer needed only one simple precaution. Before going about ruffing clubs, ace of diamonds should have been cashed. That would have taken care of East's only trump, and declarer would have been able to ruff two clubs in dummy, using a spade ruff as communication. Another spade ruff provides the transportation to draw the last trumps, and a third club loser vanishes on the third heart. Declarer still surrenders a club, but that's the only defensive trick.

THE Daily Crossword by Stephen Frawley

ACROSS

- Amphibious
- Take in a crop
- Petal perfume
- Royal tutor
- Exile tale
- Confederation
- Stidded
- King of yore
- Intrinsically
- Silvery
- All ears
- Moves with
- Feet of
- Legendre
- Gumpowder
- Ingredient Br.
- Reassembling a pen
- Crowds
- Out of work
- Amor's state
- Expressed
- Ballroom
- Accompanying
- Meat
- Make
- From a company
- Jackpot part
- Real port
- Cordless
- Not alert
- Visionary
- Modern money
- Gaze dances
- Homespacer
- Staten V.P.
- What's
- In -
- Arrest
- Outline
- Spineless
- Actor Joel

DOWN

- Amphibious
- Creek
- Haggish
- Animated
- Flight back
- Panache
- Lay adjacent
- Less ruddy
- Alt
- Fowl concern
- Pastory item
- East end of a church
- Obse for one
- Ascended
- Seawater
- Hazards
- Novelist Place
- Overwhelms
- Engaged
- Felt
- Author, Ludwig
- Liberty
- Weather
- Without exception
- Corn muffs
- Temporarily
- Inactive
- Status
- Disbarment
- Ripe
- Sea duck
- Irregularly
- Is -
- Island
- Part of GBS
- Tennite
- My Name

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Namibians approve constitution, prepare for independence in March

WINDHOEK, Namibia (Agencies) — The constituent assembly Friday unanimously adopted a democratic, Western-style constitution in preparation for Namibia's independence from South Africa on March 21.

The constitution guarantees fundamental individual rights and limits a president to two five-year terms, a rarity in a continent where leaders traditionally serve for life.

Its unanimous adoption represents a remarkable spirit of reconciliation among assembly members who were on opposite sides during a 23-year guerrilla war for independence.

The 72-member assembly approved the constitution in a session held on the front steps of the Tintenpalast, the legislative building on a hilltop in Windhoek.

"Today the masses of our people have a constitution which embodies their aspirations to be masters of their own destiny," said Sam Nujoma, who is expected to be the first president and is leader of the dominant South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

Namibia was formerly called South West Africa.

A four-metre-by-six-metre print of the constitution's preamble served as a backdrop for the session, which also was attended by Louis Pienaar, the South African administrator of the territory, and Martti Ahtisaari, head of the United Nations contingent monitoring the independence process.

South Africa has ruled Namibia since 1915, but agreed to grant independence under a regional peace treaty also signed by Angola and Cuba. More than 6,000 U.N. civilian and military personnel have been monitoring the process since last April.

SWAPO, which began a bush war against South African rule in 1966, won 41 assembly seats in last November's assembly elections and will form the first government.

Despite a hard-fought campaign and sharp ideological differences, the seven parties represented in the assembly quickly reached agreement on the constitution after beginning work in November.

The constitution has a declaration of fundamental rights, including freedom of movement, speech, and a free press. It also envisions a multiparty democracy, regular elections, an independent judiciary and an executive president.

In another development, Nujoma named a white businessman, Gert Hanekom, to serve as minister of agriculture.

Most of the other posts already had been filled. Nujoma has named whites, businessmen, and opposition party members to his cabinet in a bid to reconcile Namibia after the lengthy war and to ease fears of the 75,000 whites,

who control most of the economy.

Independence celebrations next month are expected to attract more than 20 heads of state and thousands of foreign guests to Windhoek, a town which has only a few hotels.

The city has a population of about 120,000 and is by far the largest city in the huge, semi-arid territory that has only 1.3 million people.

Namibia will keep the South African rand currency in circulation for at least two years after independence, Finance Minister-Designate Otto Herzig said.

It was the first speech detailing the economic policies of the SWAPO.

In a break with much of its former Marxist ideology, Herzig said SWAPO would encourage free market principles.

Namibia would for a minimum of three years stay in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), he said.

SACU ensures the free flow of goods and services between its members — South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

"The rand will remain legal tender for at least two years during which period very little influence can be exerted on the free flow of capital between Namibia and South Africa," Herzig said in a speech to business leaders Thursday.

Herzig said Namibia would establish its own central bank independent of the South African Reserve Bank, and later issue its own currency.

France opposes neutrality of united Germany

PARIS (AP) — Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said in an interview published Friday that France does not oppose the reunification of Germany but is against a neutral Germany, which he said would lead to European instability.

"France has recalled that the reunification of the German people is a right," the conservative Paris newspaper Le Figaro quoted Dumas as saying. "It is not going back on that."

The concern of the French government, he said, is the future. To prepare for it, all the problems posed by the present changes in the East must be examined, "notably those involving European security."

"France will not discuss either the principle of reunification or the modalities of this reunification," the foreign minister said. "This debate is a matter for the Germans themselves."

"In the framework of the old order that is coming apart before us, France has its responsibilities in Germany, the same as those of the other three allied powers. This responsibility will be exercised so that the reunification is carried out with the stability and trust of Germany's neighbors."

Asked if France feared the reunification of Germany, a country that has invaded French territory three times in the past 120 years, Dumas quoted President Francois Mitterrand, who said last year: "France is not afraid of German reunification."

Neutrality is another matter, he said.

"Because that poses the problem of security. French security goes beyond its borders. And it is always in the interest of our country to surround itself with solid allies. A neutral Germany would be the heart of an unstable Europe."

Asked if a new, even more economically powerful Germany on the French border and in the European Community would not change the nature of Franco-German friendship, Dumas said the solid relations built in the 45 years since the war would not be thrown out of the window because of a new historical development.

"Everything is not going to be rosy for a reunified Germany either," he said.

Asked about the importance of the American military presence in Europe, Dumas welcomed U.S. troop reductions, but said U.S. military presence in Europe remained desirable.

"No matter what the level of disarmament, the Soviet Union will remain a great military power in Europe," the foreign minister said.

Japan voices concern over North Korean nuclear facility

TOKYO (R) — Japan on Friday expressed serious concern at a scientist's report that North Korea seems to be expanding a nuclear facility that could enable it to build nuclear weapons.

Professor Toshitomi Sakata of Tokyo's Tokai University said computer analysis of satellite pictures taken more than three years ago showed the North Koreans had put up a large new building at the facility north of Pyongyang and constructed access roads.

"Our findings are probably the first to confirm Western intelligence reports about North Korea's progress in building a nuclear reactor," Sakata told Reuters.

"Once the plant is running, they'll be able to extract plutonium and make nuclear weapons," he said.

The scientist said the London-based Jane's Defence Weekly last year reported that this could happen within the next five years.

After reports of Sakata's findings appeared in Japanese newspapers Friday, a government spokesman was asked at a regular news conference whether Japan saw a threat in the North Korean facility, located in the region of

Pyongyang, about 90 kilometres north of Pyongyang. "We are very concerned," said the spokesman, deputy chief cabinet secretary Nobuo Ishihara. "But at the present stage we have no confirmed information."

"It is impossible to determine whether the facility is for military purposes or peaceful purposes," Sakata, who heads the private Tokai University Research and Information Centre, said he had not informed the government before making his findings public.

"I am under no obligation to report my findings to the government," he said.

"The reporters who covered my group's findings informed the Foreign Ministry and other offices. I presume. I've heard nothing from government officials regarding this matter."

Sakata said his team had compared two sets of photographs of the Pyongyang site taken by the French spot satellite in 1986 and in 1989.

"The June 1986 photo shows construction was taking place. In the photo taken in September 1989, we were able to see that the installation area had increased substantially in size, including

roads and a large building." Japanese newspapers said Communist North Korea, with Soviet help, had constructed a nuclear plant for research purposes in the Nyonghyong area in the mid-1970s. The original plant's capacity was estimated at 2,000-4,000 kilowatts.

Nearly 37 years after an armistice ending a bitter war between the two Koreas, Pyongyang has still not signed a peace treaty either with the anti-Communist South or with the United States, which led a U.N. international force backing Seoul.

Tension remains high along the North-South truce line.

"North Korea is one of those countries and areas which (causes us) very much concern from the point of view of the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and facilities," a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Spokesman Taiso Watanabe said North Korea, as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in 1985 but had so far refused to guarantee international inspection of its facilities.

New Seoul alliance takes power

SEOUL (R) — A coalition of government and former opposition groups said Friday it had formally set up South Korea's new ruling party. Foes immediately attacked it as an "anti-democratic camp."

The formation of the huge party, called by media the greatest development in the country's volatile politics, is the result of last month's surprise merger of President Roh Tae-woo's parliamentary group with two opposition parties led by former presidential candidates Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil.

In a ceremony on a Seoul islet Friday, Roh and the two Kims were chosen as co-leaders of the new Democratic Liberal Party, due to be legally registered on Feb. 15.

The party will hold 216 seats, or more than two-thirds, of the 299-member parliament, enough to push through any constitutional change and upset past opposition dominance.

Roh's previous ruling camp had only 125 members of parliament, losing an overall majority to a split opposition that included Kim Dae-Jung, South Korea's best-known dissident.

"Today will go down in history as the national day of humiliation at the cost of democracy was excluded from the so-called 'grand conservative coalition'."

"We demand an immediate end to this anti-national, anti-democratic and unethical scheme," he said.

He called the new alliance a political coup d'etat against people yearning for full democracy and described Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil, a former prime minister, as traitors.

He said the move was a trend toward one-party dictatorship and was designed to stop his group winning provincial elections, the first for 30 years, later this year and general elections in 1992.

In an apparent bid to placate the hardcore opposition politician, Roh has said he will help drop charges brought against him over a colleague's illegal visit to North Korea.

Kim Dae-Jung was charged under tough anti-Communist laws for not revealing a secret trip to Pyongyang by party member Suh Kyung-Won for talks with President Kim Il-Sung.

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3 killed, 19 hurt in E. German blast

EAST BERLIN (R) — An explosion ripped through part of a giant East German chemical plant Friday, killing at least three people and injuring 19, the East German News Agency (ADN) reported.

The blast was in a carbide-producing oven at the state-run Buna chemical combine near Halle, in a scarred old industrial belt about 250 kilometres south of Berlin.

Intense heat prevented firemen and rescue workers reaching the scene of the explosion, ADN said.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known.

"There was a terrible blast. Then everything was suddenly black all around us and the air literally burst into flame," ADN quoted a worker at the plant as saying.

The Buna complex is among scores of chemical and brown coal-power plants built early this century and blamed for air and water pollution across East Germany.

anti-pollution and industrial safety measures long standard in the West.

The Stalinist government in power for 40 years until last November virtually ignored environmental and health hazards from heavy industry to meet production plan targets.

Under popular pressure, the new leadership has promised sweeping modernisation of industry and environmental improvements with West German help.

The government said this week six big chemical plants would be closed by 1991.

China stands alone in rejecting Moscow's reforms

LONDON (Agencies) — China has stood alone in rejecting a landmark decision by the Soviet Union's Communist Party to end its monopoly on power and usher in a multi-party system.

Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin told a visiting former U.S. congressman in Peking that China was different from the Soviet Union and would not follow the radical political reforms championed by Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev.

"He (Jiang) said that China was not influenced by political changes in the Soviet Union. He remarked that China's Communist Party didn't come to power because of the Soviet Red Army," a U.S. official who attended the meeting said Thursday.

Jiang spoke Wednesday as Gorbachev, despite fierce opposition from the old guard, won overwhelming support from the Communist Party's Central Committee to rewrite article six of the Soviet constitution guaranteeing its monopoly on power.

Western leaders and newspapers applauded Gorbachev's courage to push his reforms through the conservative-dominated Central Committee, but said the road ahead was uncertain.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher hailed the move as "a great decision" but said a lot of work remained to be done. Neil Kinnock, head of the British opposition Labour Party, added "now he (Gorbachev) should get unstinting help in overcoming the huge economic problems of the Soviet Union."

U.S. President George Bush, speaking before the end of the Communist Party meeting in Moscow, appeared to shy away from assessing the implications of its decisions.

"I am not here to anoint or try

to shape the deliberations of the Central Committee proceedings in the Soviet Union," he told civic leaders in San Francisco, although he went on to praise Gorbachev's open-mindedness.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in Moscow for meetings with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Gorbachev, issued a brief statement Wednesday night.

"This clearly is a time of great change in the Soviet Union," Baker said.

"They are making efforts to reform both economically and politically and emphasising the introduction of pluralism into their political system, something the U.S. strongly supports."

Alfred Dregger, parliamentary floor leader of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrat/Christian Social Union, said in a statement the Soviet move had been triggered by political reforms sweeping Eastern Europe.

"The Soviet Communist Party, which put up with the reforms under Gorbachev's leadership, had no alternative now but to jump out from the shadows of Lenin and Stalin."

"For now, though, Gorbachev and his reform programme remain an experiment with uncertain results."

Newspapers in Spain, Britain, Italy and Holland echoed these comments while praising Gorbachev.

Commented Spain's newspaper El Pais: "The battle is not yet won. Two events will be decisive — the forthcoming elections to the Soviets and the republics which could eliminate a large part of the outdated Communist machine and the Communist Party congress which will have to define a new Communist Party."

Soviet citizens interviewed on the streets Thursday predicted a

battle for power following the Communist Party's decision to end its guaranteed political monopoly.

But several people on Moscow Pushkin Square said there was no guarantee the long-dominant Communists would allow a multi-party democracy.

"Everything will depend on whether people are ready to exert pressure," said Vladimir Tikhonov, a member of the Congress of People's Deputies, the national parliament with the final say on removing the constitutional article that guarantees the Communists' leading role in society.

The Communist Party daily Pravda published news of the Central Committee meeting on its front page Thursday but did not publish a text of the platform outlining the party's steps toward democracy.

Two senior Soviet officials Thursday blamed the country's stagnant economy for the pessimism of Soviet people about their future under political reforms.

Asked why Soviet people appeared pessimistic, Gorbachev's closest adviser Alexander Yakovlev told CBS Evening News in Moscow: "We've underestimated the facts of our own past sins."

"We don't have housing, we don't have food — or not enough food — but this is no fault of perestroika. The picture of perestroika is being clouded by the problems of daily life. People are not interested in concepts, in theories — they need bread, milk, housing, transportation. This is understandable," said Yakovlev, a politburo member.

Yeltsin said on the same television programme: "If we cannot feed the people right now, if we cannot produce good clothing and if we cannot develop our people spiritually, it doesn't mat-

ter what slogans we shout the people will never respond."

Yeltsin, asked whether Gorbachev was doing too little too late, replied: "The time for half-measures and compromise is over. We are sitting on a critical mass, on the top of a volcano, and within a certain period of time neither Gorbachev nor any other man may be able to lead. The people will decide their destiny, like the people of Eastern Europe."

Yeltsin praised the path taken by the East Germans, Czechoslovakia and Bulgarians but hoped the people would not follow the lead of Romania, with "the bloodshed, the tragedy."

Asked whether an uprising similar to the one last December in Romania was likely to happen in the Soviet Union, Yeltsin said, "I wouldn't give you a 100 per cent guarantee because we have a large monster, the KGB (secret service)."

Meanwhile the Soviet Communist Party's chief ideologist said Thursday that Gorbachev's reform programme has saved the Soviet Union from a "cataclysmic explosion."

"I think we have avoided a really painful resolution," politburo member Vadim Medvedev said at London's Royal Institute for International Affairs. "We now have the possibility of controlling the outcome... but we must not drag our heels."

Medvedev, considered one of Gorbachev's main allies, arrived from Moscow Wednesday, soon after the vote by the Communist Party's Central Committee to give up its 70-year-old monopoly on power. He heads a seven-member Soviet delegation invited by British parliamentarians.

"Thanks to the fact that we began perestroika in 1985... I think we really have prevented

the possibility of a cataclysmic explosion," Medvedev said through an interpreter. "We have channelled this process into an area of controlled reaction."

Medvedev said the Communist Party will still "struggle for a leading role... but by democratic means."

Earlier, Medvedev met privately with the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee.

Several of the British legislators said afterward they felt convinced that Gorbachev could succeed in easing shortages and other economic problems.

"I am uneasy. It seemed somewhat woolly. We were not quite clear exactly how it is going to be achieved," said legislator Bowen Wells, a member of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party.

"We wish them well. But, as any Western politician knows... tolerance anywhere is not always evident in the face of such shortages."

A reformist critic of Gorbachev has said a split in the Communist Party may be inevitable despite the Central Committee decision to abandon its monopoly on power.

Yuri Afanasyev, a leader of a radical group in the Soviet parliament was quoted in the Italian newspaper La Repubblica Thursday as saying his group was unconvinced by the announcement the Soviet Union would move towards multi-party democracy.

He said Gorbachev had to state clearly whether he was with hardliners or reformists in the party. Asked whether that would mean a split, he replied: "I see no alternative."

"We shall immediately begin gathering signatures among Communists for the 'democratic platform' of our faction."

COLUMN

Anthony Quinn undergoes surgery

NEW YORK (R) — Academy award-winning actor Anthony Quinn successfully underwent a three-hour heart bypass operation Thursday and could be out of the hospital in a week, a spokeswoman said. Quinn's doctor said the 74-year-old actor "has a strong heart and is in good health" and should have an uneventful recovery, said spokeswoman Katherine Benven. Quinn entered New York's Mount Sinai Hospital Wednesday night after suffering chest pains for three months. The actor, who was born in Mexico and came to the United States when he was one year old, won Academy Awards for his role as a Mexican revolutionary in Viva Zapata and for portraying the French painter Paul Gauguin in Lust for Life. He played an Arab in Lawrence of Arabia, an Italian strongman in La Shasta and Greeks in the Gods of Ninawa, and Zorba the Greek. A former amateur boxer, cement mixer and fruit picker, he became an actor at 15, appearing on stage with Mae West, and made his film debut in 1936 in Parole.

Stones set to conquer Japan

TOKYO (R) — Accompanied by six sword-toting Samurai warriors, the Rolling Stones met 200 clapping, whistling reporters and photographers Friday ahead of the group's first concert in Japan. "We're so happy to see so many people come to welcome us," lead singer Mick Jagger said. He said the band would add another date to the nine concerts already planned for Tokyo's "Big Egg," the domed baseball stadium. All nine dates are sold out and ticket scalpers are already reaping a windfall. This is the first time in its 27-year history the rock 'n' roll group will play in Japan. The group had to cancel a Japanese concert tour at the last minute in 1973 after authorities denied Jagger a visa following an arrest for possession of drugs. Guitarist Keith Richards, sporting what he called a *kyozuka* headband around his neck, summed up the good feelings of many of the journalists by spouting a few words of Japanese — "Genki Desu (I'm fine)."

Treasure of Tsars found in bank vault

BELGRADE (R) — Diamonds, necklaces and golden cups and crosses believed to have belonged to the family of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas Romanov II have been found in a Belgrade bank vault, the newspaper Politika has said. Court officials opened a vault belonging to Russian emigre Vera Fiermanova-Mikhailovic, who died 18 months ago, and found it packed with gems, gold and money, the daily said. Among the items was a golden cross which belonged to Tsar Peter the Great, Russian ruler from 1696 to 1725. "The glitter of gold is blinding, diamonds and precious stones sparkle, golden cups reflect light at different angles," Politika said. The Mikhailovic family fled Tsarist Russia at the outbreak of the October Revolution in 1917 and settled in Yugoslavia. Court officials opened the vault at the Yugoslav Investment and Credit Bank because Perhamanova-Mikhailovic had no heirs. The Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug later cast doubt on the story, quoting court officials as denying the vault had been opened. They said it would be opened officially later this month. But the deputy chief editor of state-controlled Politika, Petar Jankovic, told Reuters the paper stood by its story.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	10	15
ATHENS	14	19
BAGDAD	14	21
BANGKOK	25	34
BEIJING	10	17
BOMBAY	25	34
BRAZILIA	18	25
Cairo	10	17
CHICAGO	08	17
COLOMBO	05	12
DARWIN	22	29
DELHI	18	25
GUANGZHOU	15	22
HONG KONG	15	22
ISTANBUL	08	15
JAKARTA	25	32
JOHANNESBURG	10	17
KARACHI	25	32
KUALA LUMPUR	25	32
LAHORE	10	17
MANILA	25	32
MOSCOW	02	09
MUMBAI	18	25
NEW DELHI	18	25
NEW YORK	03	10
PARIS	04	11
ROME	04	11
SINGAPORE	25	32
TOKYO	02	09
VIENNA	08	15